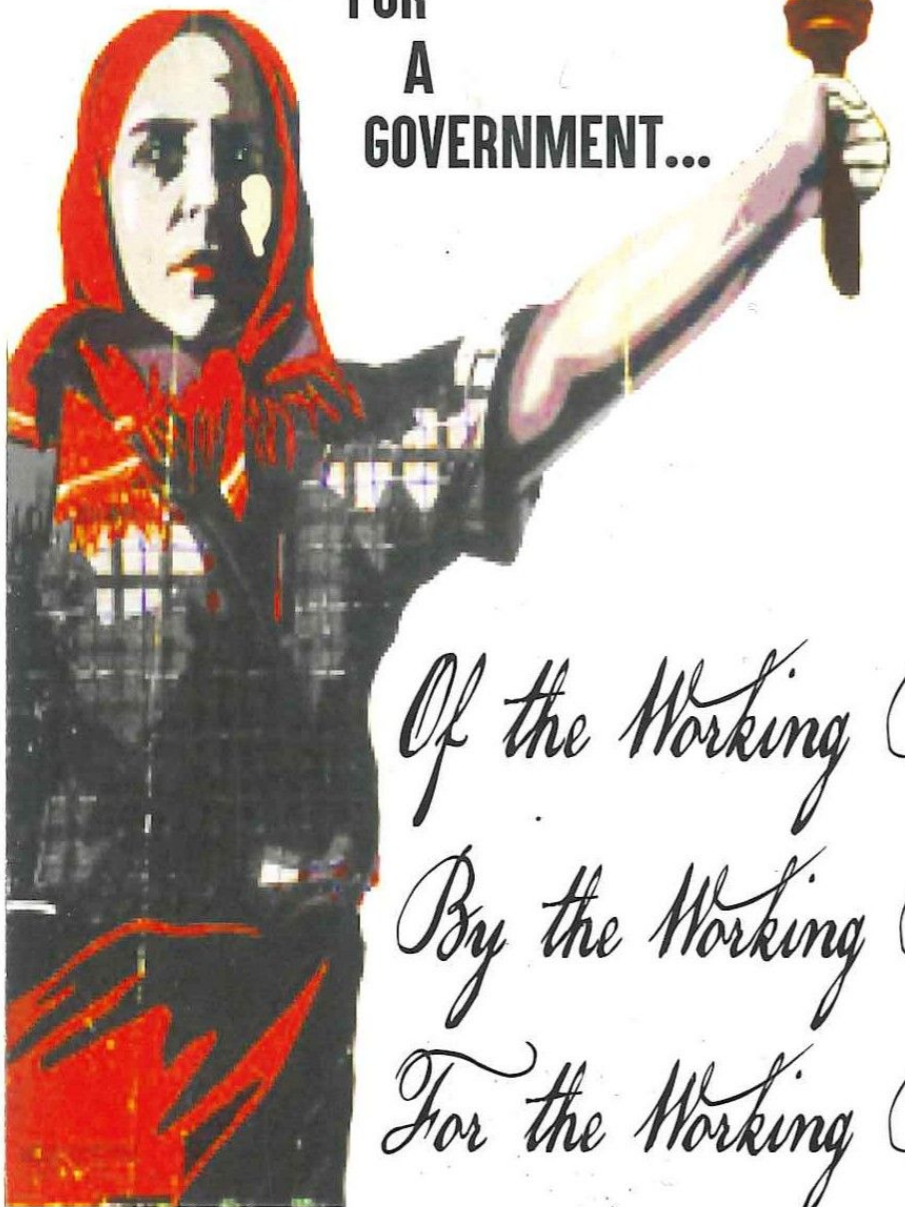


**MPD Messenger Winter 2019**

**MPD**

**FOR  
A  
GOVERNMENT...**



*Of the Working People  
By the Working People  
For the Working People*

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MPD Press, Inc.

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## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

# What is MPD?

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The Movement for People's Democracy was formed in 2016 in response to the growing threat to world peace, and the unrelenting attacks on our civil liberties, accompanied by a rise in racist attitudes, xenophobia, discrimination against women, a rise in rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and homophobia. These threats to our democratic way of life are best manifested in the recent escalation of NATO activities around the world.

The MPD is an anti-imperialist, democratic, independent, internationalist movement of mass action. It is an integral part of the pro-democracy forces in the USA and acts in cooperation with other national and international movements. Member organizations affiliated with MPD include Labor United in Class Struggle / Labor Today, U.S. Friends of the Soviet People, the California Peace Council, League of Young Communists USA, Party of Communists USA, People's School for Marxist-Leninist Studies, and others.

We stand for peace, disarmament and global security; for national independence, economic and social justice and development, for protection of the environment, human rights, and cultural heritage; solidarity with and support of those peoples and liberation movements fighting for the independence, sovereignty, and integrity of their nations, and against imperialism. And we stand in strong defense of the U.S. Constitution and the right of the American people to protest and petition the Government for the redress of grievances.

The MPD initiates and cooperates in actions to eliminate nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and to reduce conventional arms. It also acts in particular for the dissolution of military blocks and pacts; the dismantling of all military bases and the withdrawal of foreign troops; for social and economic development, the establishment of a new international economic order, a just solution of the problem of foreign debt; for the recognition of every nation's freedom of choice; for the establishment of a new international information and communication order; in support of the liberation movements; for the settlement of regional conflicts on the basis of respect for the rights of the peoples to self-determination.

In its activities and structures, the MPD pursues the goal of equal participation of men and women.

The MPD believes that the solution of global security problems is possible by enlarging the popular movement and raising the level of public awareness for the causes that generate war and misery, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, police and state violence, and corruption.

### **MISSION STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT FOR PEOPLES' DEMOCRACY:**

The mission of the MPD is to unite as many pro-democracy forces as possible in the United States to develop a united front against fascism, the greatest threat to peace, without exception to race, color, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, or national origin. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) represents "the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic and most imperialist elements of finance capital". Our mission as an organization of peace and democracy as its primary goal is to unite as many forces as possible against this threat and develop mass activities to alert the public to this great danger. This movement to defeat fascism needs the support of all of us!

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## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

### Goals of MPD

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#### PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

- To unite all democratic minded, peace loving people in the USA into a national united front against fascism and war.
- To provide a peoples' response to state sponsored terrorism and violence in our communities.
- To demand an agenda for social justice
- To fight corruption
- To demand accountability and transparency from our elected representatives.
- To bring corporate domination of our economy to an end.
- To establish peoples' councils in every community with authority to enforce laws that protect the people from abuse of authority.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mark Maxey, National Coordinator

Chris Bovet, Treasurer

Eddie Yost, Communications Director

Rodolfo Plancarte, Outreach Coordinator

Eddie Yost, Outreach Coordinator

Angelo D'Angelo, PhD., People's School for ML Studies

Angelo D'Angelo, PhD., US Friends of the Soviet People

Joseph Hancock, Labor United for Class Struggle

<http://www.movement4peoplesdemocracy.org>



## It's Christmas Time....Capitalism's ruin of children by sex trafficking

by Mark Maxey

"Capitalism ruins lives, as seen in the documentary on child sex trafficking, I AM JANE DOE," Mark Maxey, Movement 4 People's Democracy National Coordinator states. "Backpage owners make \$71 Million in 2012, \$112.7 Million in 2013, \$134.9 Million in 2014, and \$153 Million in 2015, the documentary states."

\$471.6 Million in 4 years, almost half a billion dollars. Some of that profit was made by pimps selling 12-year-olds - 17-year-old abducted girls. "Don't tell me capitalism and the lure of wealth does not ruin peoples lives," Maxey reiterated. "The owners of Backpage got wealthy beyond imagination while the lives of the little girls were drugged, raped (some 20 times a day), through online sex ads."

Tonya spent night after night in different hotel rooms, with different men, all at the command of someone she once trusted. She was held against her will, beaten and made to feel like she had no other option at the time, all by the man she thought she loved.

When Tonya was 13, she met Eddie (a pseudonym) at the apartment she was living in with her mother in the Dallas, Texas, area. His estranged wife was the property manager. Tonya was classmates with Eddie's stepdaughter, so the two would often see each other at the apartment and in the local grocery store. It was there that the two first exchanged numbers. This is how Tonya was first recruited for sex trafficking.

Rebecca Fairley Raney states in her story, Unseen Victims of Sex Trafficking, she says...

"A few years ago, social worker Steven Procopio was listening to a discussion among a group of middle-aged homeless men at a Boston health-care agency when he recognized that his group had a terrible secret in common: Many of these men, at some point in their lives, had been trafficked. For Procopio, the realization led to a wholesale shift in context for working with men and boys who suffer from complex trauma."

"Capitalism kills, and the by-products from Capitalism ruins people's lives," Maxey says. "We must in 2019 begin a revolution by CRUSHING CAPITALISM!"



## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

Backpage at one time was owned by Village Voice Media. VVM had a long history of progressive anti-establishment reporting. When the owners of VVM were exposed as owners of Backpage what they did next, was typical of how capitalism corrupts people.

The owners sold VVM but kept Backpage. No wonder, making \$471 Million profit in 4 years, while destroying the lives of young girls.

CRUSH CAPITALISM!

SUPPORT & RESEARCH below

<https://www.newsweek.com/sex-ads-website-backpagecom-co-founder-charged-after-fbi-raid-876333>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/true-crime/wp/2018/04/13/backpage-ceo-carl-ferrer-pleads-guilty-in-three-states-agrees-to-testify-against-other-website-officials/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.f07d0ba33194](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/true-crime/wp/2018/04/13/backpage-ceo-carl-ferrer-pleads-guilty-in-three-states-agrees-to-testify-against-other-website-officials/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.f07d0ba33194)



## Right to work - The Issue That Refuses to Die!

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### A historical perspective.

Phoenix-like, "right-to-work" measures have again surfaced in state Legislatures, with 25 states now passing RTW legislation. RTW provisions were made possible by amending Section 14 (b) of the Taft-Hartley Act. Such measures are designed to prohibit employers from negotiating union security clauses by which all who benefit from union bargaining agreements pay their share of the costs involved in the union's legal obligation to represent all workers.

Congressmen Steve King (R-IA) and Joe Wilson (R-SC) have introduced National Right to Work legislation that would make "RtW the law in all fifty states. The bill has not yet been assigned a number. If it passes it will be the death blow to organized labor in the United States. Congressman King has also introduced HR 743, the Repeal Davis-Bacon Act which would repeal prevailing wages on Federal projects. This has been federal law since 1931.

The words "right-to-work" carry the emotional freight that one attributes to the personal guarantees associated with the Bill of Rights. In reality, RtW has nothing to do with the idea that one has a right to a job.

The phrase "right-to-work" has been found to be so misleading and confusing, that in 1954 the Supreme Court of Idaho refused to permit the term to be part of the title on an initiative measure proposed to voters in that state.

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that workers cannot be legally required to join a union as part of the collective bargaining agreement. In addition (1988), a union cannot require a non-union member to pay for any union activity that is "unrelated to collective bargaining, contract administration, and grievance adjustment." Labor organizations, however, have long viewed those who do not share in the burden of collective representation at the workplace as freeloaders.

### Taft-Hartley or 'Slave Labor Act'

Twelve years after the passage of the National Labor Relations Act (1935) which served as the "Magna Carta" of the American labor movement, the "right-to-work" sentiment flowered with the passage of the Taft-Hartley law in 1947. Taft-Hartley restrained the collective strength of workers by, for example, prohibiting sympathy strikes, secondary boycotts, and secondary picketing banned the closed shop and permitted states to ban the union shop by enacting "right-to-work" legislation. From the day of its enactment, organized labor referred to the Taft-Hartley law as "The Slave Labor Act," and consistently fought for its repeal.

<http://www.labortoday.us>



## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

**Labor Today** is published by the Labor United for Class Struggle (LUCS), a nationwide caucus of union and non-represented workers. Our mission is to unite the working class to fight against the power of transnational capital. Currently, only 11% of the U.S. workforce is organized into unions. Most of these workers are employed in the public sector and are legally denied the right to strike. The most militant of these workers are the postal workers employed by the U.S. Postal Service. For this reason, they are under attack. However, they are not the only ones.

The attacks on the public sector and its workforce are part of a larger plan developed years ago by Milton Friedman and the University of Chicago School of Business. The plan is referred to as neoliberalism and its main feature is austerity. Reducing the number of federal, state, and municipal employees and cutting pensions and Social Security are the first part of the plan which President Ronald Reagan called "starving the beast". Under this plan, all government services are virtually eliminated with the exception of the military, and the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches of government. This is also called Social Darwinism, or survival of the fittest.

Our mission with Labor Today and the LUCS caucus is to unite all of Labor, to give them a voice regardless of industry or type of work without regard to status: union or unrepresented. We provide assistance to the Walmart workers, the Fight for \$15 and a union and other efforts. We are transnational and we support the mission and policies of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).



*On the 120th anniversary of the US invasion and intervention:*



## **DECOLONIZATION AND INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO NOW!**

Puerto Rico is mired in the most serious crisis in its 120-year history as a colony of the United States. Never before so many attacks have coincided that if this path imposed by imperialism continues unabated, it will negatively impact the future of PR as a distinct Boricua nation that can develop for the benefit of its people.

What is happening now in PR is the culmination of the process of destruction of a people that began the same day of the US invasion on July 25, 1898. Finally, the illusion of the "Free Associated State or Commonwealth" disappeared. That big lie that US devised in 1952 to not be accused of the crime of owning colonies. In 2016, the US Supreme Court confirmed that PR does not have its own sovereignty because its authority resides in the US Congress. That is, Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States!

It began with the destruction of the PR economy, the suppression of the knowledge of our history and our freedom heroes, the repression of the independence movement that dared to maintain its Puerto Rican identity and liberate its people, the imposition of a parasitic economic model that did not attempt to develop self-sufficiency, including food self-sufficiency so basic to survival. The imposition of a citizenship that facilitated the flow of cheap labor and a cannon fodder in their bloody wars. It continues with the current situation with the imposition of an illegitimate debt and a dictatorial Fiscal Control Board imposed by US Congress with members that represent the same ones who caused this debacle, as wolves taking care of sheep.

Then we arrived to the situation - to the enormous crisis - after the hurricanes Irma and Maria that have shown the world the power of nature which is also besieged by the policies of rich countries that prioritize capital over the most basic of needs, the health of the planet. But it has also demonstrated the criminal cruelty with which the US empire has responded to the great devastation of the hurricanes and its plans to restructure Puerto Rico for US' benefit.

Today, close to a year after the storm, it cannot be said that there is recovery at any level. On the contrary, much progress has been made in trying to impose the most terrible austerity policies, from the privatization of basic services such as electricity

and education, to the rise in the cost of living while eliminating benefits, pensions, and laying off workers. The current conditions where a people is immersed in solving their problems of housing, health and mere survival have been used to advance a satanic agenda that was already exposed in the 2015 Kruger Report, direct recipes of the International Monetary Fund: taking from the poor to give to the rich.

Nor can we ignore the genocidal actions of FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers, not only for their slowness in responding to the urgent needs, but also in their refusal to give the aid they are obliged to give to the people. We should also include insurance companies and all the vulture companies who have profited from the people while denying the service for which they were contracted.

The Puerto Rican people are now imprisoned by the neoliberal policy that suffocates them. On the one hand, the US does not provide the necessary assistance, and on the other hand it prohibits the entry of solidarity aid from other countries such as Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela.

One escape valve has been migration, especially to the US. More than 200,000 Puerto Ricans - in a country of 3.4 million - have flown to the US.

Meanwhile, in the midst of this tornado, the US imposes its sinister plan through its FCB and the Puerto Rican puppet government.

The US vision is a PR privatized to the core. Where the youth would have a mediocre education devoid of their Puerto Rican cultural and historical context, in order to serve the privatizing entities. A country owned by billionaires, with the sole purpose of increasing their income free of all restrictions that could bind them, free of taxes or any overseeing. A PR without Puerto Ricans, as the great independence leader, nationalist Don Pedro Albizu Campos warned when he said that the US wanted the cage without the birds.

The people of PR are organizing to repel these attacks. But it is essential that here in the US, we point out the culpability of the United States in having a country as a colony. Join the call to judge the US crimes perpetrated in PR in the People's International Tribunal on U.S. crimes against PR that will take place on October 27, 2018 in New York.

## **INDEPENDENCE WITH REPARATIONS FOR PUERTO RICO NOW!**

**Comité Boricua Filadelfia-Camden** WePhillyRicans@gmail.com 215-906-4769 • 856-225-1718



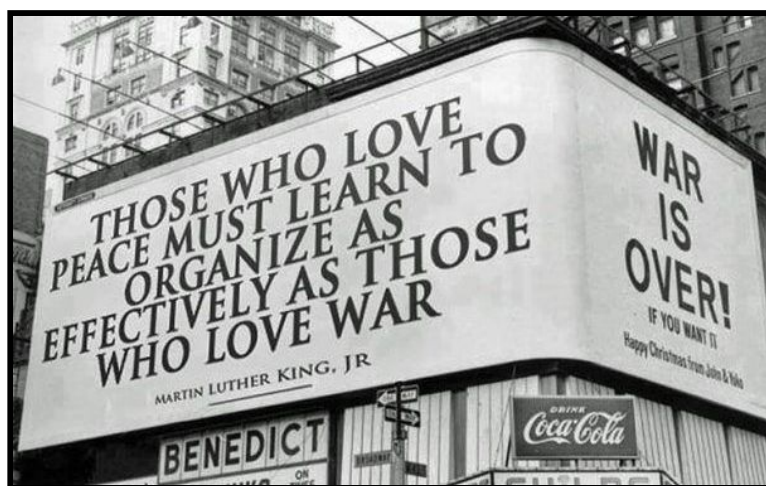
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a global movement to end all wars

## WAR IS ILLEGAL

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By Kevin Zeese and Margaret Flowers,

From Popular Resistance



Every war being fought today is illegal. Every action taken to carry out these wars is a war crime.

In 1928, the Kellogg-Briand Pact or Pact of Paris was signed and ratified by the United States and other major nations that renounced war as a way to resolve conflicts, calling instead for peaceful ways of handling disputes.

The Kellogg-Briand Pact was the basis for the Nuremberg Tribunal, in which 24 leaders of the Third Reich were tried and convicted for war crimes, and for the Tokyo Tribunal, in which 28

leaders of the Japanese Empire were tried and convicted for war crimes, following World War II.

Such prosecutions should have prevented further wars, but they have not. David Swanson of World Beyond War argues that a fundamental task of the antiwar movement is to enforce the rule of law. What good are new treaties, he asks, if we can't uphold the ones that already exist?

*"End Indefinite Detention" - protest - image by Ellen Davidson Credit: Ellen Davidson*

The United States is violating international law, and escalating its aggression

All wars and acts of aggression by the United States since 1928 have violated the Kellogg-Briand Pact and the United Nations Charter since it was signed in 1945. The UN Charter states, in Article 2:





“All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.”

Yet, the United States has a long history of threatening aggression and using military force to remove governments it opposed and install friendly ones. Illegal attacks by the US since World War II have resulted in 20 million people being killed in 37 nations. For example, as we outline in “North Korea and the United States: Will the Real Aggressor Please Stand Down,” the United States used violence to install Syngman Rhee in power in the 1940’s and subsequently killed millions of Koreans, in both the South and the North, in the Korean War, which has not ended. Under international law, the “war games” practicing to attack North Korea with conventional and nuclear weapons are illegal threats of military action.

The list of interventions by the United States is too long to list here. Basically, the US has been interfering in and attacking other countries almost continuously since its inception. Currently the US is involved directly in wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen and Somalia. The US is threatening Iran and Venezuela with attack.

The United States has 883 military bases in 183 countries and has hundreds of outposts scattered throughout the world. Lynn Petrovich recently examined the new defense budget. With regard to the Pentagon’s 2019 budget report, she writes:

“If the planet is our community, America is the bully in the neighborhood. Reference to the word ‘lethal’ is sprinkled no less than 3 dozen times throughout The Report (‘more lethal force’ p. 2-6, ‘technology innovation for increased lethality’ p.1-1, ‘increasing the lethality of new and existing weapons systems’ p. 3-2).”

and

“Were it not for The Report’s dire (yet, fully funded) predictions for world domination, one would think this budget request was satire by The Onion.”

Included in the new budget are funds to recruit 26,000 more of our youth into the military, purchase ten more “combat ships,” build more F-35s, even though they don’t work, and “modernize” our nuclear weapons. At a time when the United States is losing power in the world and falling behind in wealth, the government voted nearly unanimously to provide \$74 billion more than last year to be more aggressive. Imagine what that money could do if it were applied instead to improving public education, transitioning to a clean energy economy and a public works program to restore our failing infrastructure.

The United States empire is falling and blindly taking all of us down with it as it tries to assert its power.

*"No War on Yemen" - protest - by Margaret Flowers*  
*Credit: Margaret Flowers*

What to do about it



## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

The peace movement in the United States is being revived and building alliances with peace activists in many countries, and it can't happen fast enough. There are many opportunities for action this fall, the "Antiwar Autumn."

The World Beyond War conference, #NoWar2018, just concluded in Toronto. The focus of the conference was legalizing peace. Among the topics discussed was how to use courts to prevent wars, stop the escalation of militarism and investigate war crimes. Professor Daniel Turp of the University of Montreal and his students have sued the Canadian government over participating in extraditing prisoners to Guantanamo, potential intervention in Iraq and providing weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Turp recommends that activists who are considering legal action first look to domestic courts for a remedy. If none exists or domestic action is unsuccessful, then it is possible to turn to international bodies such as the International Criminal Court or the United Nations. Any people or organizations can file a report or complaint with these bodies. Before doing so, it is important to gather as much evidence as possible, first hand accounts are strong but even hearsay can be grounds to trigger an investigation.

Currently, Popular Resistance is supporting an effort to ask the International Criminal Court to launch a full investigation of Israel for its war crimes. People and organizations are invited to sign on to the letter, which will be delivered by a delegation, including us, to the Hague in November.

William Curtis Edstrom of Nicaragua wrote a letter to the United Nations in advance of Trump's visit to serve as the chair of the Security Council meeting. He is requesting "hearings, debate and vote on an effective plan of action against various crimes that have been committed by people working for the government of the US that are of significance to the global community."

This week, Medea Benjamin confronted a Trump administration official, the head of the new "Iran Action Group," at the Hudson Institute. President Trump is planning to advocate for more aggression against Iran at the United Nations. When the US tried this in the past, it has received push back from other nations. Now it is clear it is the US, not Iran, that has violated the nuclear agreement and is conducting an economic war against Iran while threatening military action. The world is likely to stand up to Trump and US threats.

Recent progress towards peace by North and South Korea show that activism is effective. Sarah Freeman-Woolpert reports on efforts by activists in South Korea and the United States to build coalitions and organize strategic actions that create the political space for peace.

Leaders of both countries met this week to discuss improving relations and finding a compromise between North Korea and the United States. President Moon will meet with President Trump at the United Nations this month. Korean activists say that their greatest concern is that Koreans finally having "the ability to shape the future of [their] country."

When we understand that war is illegal, our task becomes clear. We need to make sure that all nations, especially the United States, obey the law. We can replace war with mediation, conflict resolution and adjudication. We can legalize peace.

**<https://worldbeyondwar.org>**





WORLD**BEYOND**WAR.org  
a global movement to end all wars

## World Beyond War Conference Update

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We can define the situation as one of a reliable and enduring business model between the US Congress and NATO, their network of lobbyists and think tanks, politicians and their election funders, the weapons industry, institutional investors, and crony board management across related industries. We call this the business model of war, and we seek to disrupt or replace it as a matter of human survival and of a principled society. We can co-create and promote alternatives to the war business that replace the work, capital, and political functions of the obsolete military system.

This workshop will trial the workshop for the upcoming World Beyond War conference held at OCAD Sept 21-22, 2018. The #NoWar2018 event brings a serious movement to Toronto with the aim of ending wars through international law and agreements that maintain peace.

The DwD community is invited to participate in World Beyond War 2018 and to co-create and deliver this workshop at the conference. A 90-minute workshop is to be presented by a Toronto and DwD/OCADU-based team to reframe the business model of war. We will present a summary of the policy (or business model) proposals at the conference after the workshop, in a summary brief in the plenary. It can be inspiring for participants to see that real effort has gone into a workshop program and a continuing action plan would be maintained after the event.

### [The Political Economy of the Weapons Industry](#) [Guess Who's Sleeping With Our Insecurity Blanket?](#)

By Joan Roelofs

For many people, the “military-industrial-complex (MIC)” brings to mind the top twenty weapons manufacturers. President Dwight Eisenhower, who warned about it in 1961, wanted to call it the military industrial-congressional-complex, but decided it was not prudent to do so. Today it might well be called the military-industrial-congressional-almost-everything-complex. Most departments and levels of government, businesses, and also many charities, social service, environmental, and cultural organizations, are deeply embedded in the military.

The weapons industry may be spearheading the military budget and military operations; it is aided immensely by the cheering or silence of citizens and their representatives. Here we will provide some likely reasons for that assent. We will use the common typology of three national sectors: government, business, and nonprofit, with varying amounts of interaction among them. This does not preclude, though it masks somewhat, the proposition that government is the executive of the ruling class. Every kind of

## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

business figures in the Department of Defense (DoD) budget. Lockheed is currently the largest contractor in the weapons business. It connects with the worldwide MIC by sourcing parts, for example, for the F-35 fighter plane, from many countries. This helps a lot to market the weapon, despite its low opinion among military experts as well as anti-military critics. Lockheed also does civilian work, which enhances its aura while it spreads its values.

Other types of businesses have enormous multi-year contracts—in the billions. This despite the constitutional proviso that Congress not appropriate military funds for more than a two-year term. Notable are the construction companies, such as Fluor, KBR, Bechtel, and Hensel Phelps. These build huge bases, often with high tech surveillance or operational capacity, in the US and abroad, where they hire locals or commonly, third-country nationals to carry out the work. There are also billion-funded contractors in communications technology, intelligence analysis, transportation, logistics, food, and clothing.

“Contracting out” is our modern military way; this also spreads its influence far and wide.

Medium, small, and tiny businesses dangle from the “Christmas tree” of the Pentagon, promoting popular cheering or silence on the military budget. These include special set-asides for minority-owned and small businesses. A Black-owned small business, KEPA-TCI (construction), received contracts for \$356 million. [Data comes from several sources, available free on the internet: websites, tax forms, and annual reports of organizations; [usaspending.gov](http://usaspending.gov) (USA) and [governmentcontractswon.com](http://governmentcontractswon.com) (GCW).] Major corporations of all types serving our services have been excellently described in Nick Turse’s *The Complex*. Really small and tiny businesses are drawn into the system: landscapers, dry cleaners, child care centers, and Come Bye Goose Control of Maryland.

Among the businesses with large DoD contracts are book publishers: McGraw-Hill, Greenwood, Scholastic, Pearson, Houghton Mifflin, Harcourt, Elsevier, and others. Rarely have the biases in this industry, in fiction, nonfiction, and textbook offerings, been examined. Yet the influences on this small but significant population, the reading public, and the larger schooled contingent may help explain the silence of the literate crowd and college graduates.

Much of what is left of organized industrial labor is in weapons manufacture. Its PACs fund the few “progressive” candidates in our political system, who tend to be silent about war and the threat of nuclear annihilation. Unlike other factories, the armaments makers do not suddenly move overseas, although they do use subcontractors worldwide.

Military spending may be only about 6% of the GDP, yet it has great impact because: 1. it is a growing sector; 2. it is recession-proof; 3. it does not rely on consumer whims; 4. it is the only thing prospering in many areas; and 5. the “multiplier” effect: subcontracting, corporate purchasing, and employee spending perk up the regional economy. It is ideally suited to Keynesian remedies, because of its ready destruction and obsolescence: what isn’t consumed in warfare, rusted out, or donated to our friends still needs to be replaced by the slightly more lethal thing. Many of our science graduates work for the military directly or its contractee labs concocting these.

The military’s unbeatable weapon is jobs, and all members of Congress, and state and local officials, are aware of this. It is where well-paying jobs are found for mechanics, scientists, and engineers; even janitorial workers do well in these taxpayer-rich firms. Weaponry is also important in our manufactured goods exports as our allies are required to have equipment that meets our specifications. Governments, rebels, terrorists, pirates, and gangsters all fancy our high tech and low tech lethal devices.

## MPD Messenger • Winter 2019

Our military economy also yields a high return on investments. These benefit not only corporate executives and other rich, but many middle and working class folk, as well as churches, benevolent, and cultural organizations. The lucrative mutual funds offered by Vanguard, Fidelity, and others are heavily invested in the weapons manufacturers.

Individual investors may not know what is in their fund's portfolios; the institutions usually know. A current project of World Beyond War (<https://worldbeyondwar.org/divest>) advocates divestment of military stocks in the pension funds of state and local government workers: police, firepersons, teachers, and other civil servants. Researchers are making a state-by-state analysis of these funds. Among the findings are the extensive military stock holdings of CALpers, the California Public Employees Retirement System (the sixth largest pension fund on earth), the California State Teachers Retirement System, the New York State Teachers Retirement System, the New York City Employees Retirement System, and the New York State Common Retirement Fund (state and local employees). Amazing! the New York City teachers were once the proud parents of red diaper babies.

The governmental side of the MIC complex goes far beyond the DoD. In the executive branch, Departments of State, Homeland Security, Energy, Veterans Affairs, Interior; and CIA, AID, FBI, NASA, and other agencies; are permeated with military projects and goals. Even the Department of Agriculture has a joint program with the DoD to "restore" Afghanistan by creating a dairy cattle industry. No matter that the cattle and their feed must be imported, cattle cannot graze in the terrain as the native sheep and goats can, there is no adequate transportation or refrigeration, and the Afghans don't normally drink milk. The native animals provide yogurt, butter, and wool, and graze on the rugged slopes, but that is all so un-American.

Congress is a firm ally of the military. Campaign contributions from contractor PACs are generous, and lobbying is extensive. So also are the outlays of financial institutions, which are heavily invested in the MIC. Congresspeople have significant shares of weapons industry stocks. To clinch the deal, members of Congress (and also state and local lawmakers) are well aware of the economic importance of military contracts in their states and districts. Military bases, inside the US as well as worldwide, are an economic hub for communities. The DoD Base Structure Report for Fy2015 lists more than 4,000 domestic properties. Some are bombing ranges or recruiting stations; perhaps 400 are bases with a major impact on their localities. The largest of these, Fort Bragg, NC, is a city unto itself, and a cultural influence as well as economic asset to its region, as so well described by Catherine Lutz in *Homefront*. California has about 40 bases (<https://militarybases.com/bystate/>), and is home to major weapons makers as well. Officers generally live off-base, so the real estate, restaurant, retail, auto repair, hotel and other businesses are prospering. Local civilians find employment on bases. Closed, unconvertible installations are sometimes tourist attractions, such as the unlikeliest of all vacation spots, the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

DoD has direct contracts and grants with state and local governments. These are for various projects and services, including large amounts to fund the National Guard. The Army Engineers maintain swimming holes and parks, and police forces get a deal on Bearcats. JROTC programs nationwide provide funding for public schools, and even more for those that are public school military academies; six are in Chicago. National, state and local governments are well covered by the "insecurity blanket;" the nonprofit sector is not neglected. Nevertheless, it does harbor the very small group of anti-war organizations, such as Iraq Veterans Against War, Veterans for Peace, World Beyond War, Peace Action, Union of Concerned Scientists, Center for International Policy, Catholic Worker, Answer Coalition, and others. Yet unlike the Vietnam War period there is no vocal group of religious leaders protesting war, and the few students who are politically active are more concerned with other issues.

Nonprofit organizations and institutions are involved several ways. Some are obviously partners of the MIC: Boy and Girl Scouts, Red Cross, veterans' charities, military think-tanks such as RAND and

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Institute for Defense Analysis, establishment think-tanks like the American Enterprise Institute, Atlantic Council, and the flagship of US world projection, the Council on Foreign Relations. There are also many international nongovernmental organizations that assist the US government in delivering “humanitarian” assistance, sing the praises of the market economy, or attempt to repair the “collateral” damage inflicted on lands and people, for example, Mercy Corps, Open Society Institutes, and CARE.

Educational institutions in all sectors are embedded with the military. The military schools include the service academies, National Defense University, Army War College, Naval War College, Air Force Institute of Technology, Air University, Defense Acquisition University, Defense Language Institute, Naval Postgraduate School, Defense Information School, the medical school, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and the notorious School of the Americas in Fort Benning, GA, now renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. “In addition, Senior Military Colleges offer a combination of higher education with military instruction. SMCs include Texas A&M University, Norwich University, The Virginia Military Institute, The Citadel, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), University of North Georgia and the Mary Baldwin Women’s Institute for Leadership” (<https://www.usa.gov/military-colleges> ).

A university doesn’t have to be special to be part of the MIC. Most are awash with contracts, ROTC programs, and/or military officers and contractors on their boards of trustees. A study of the 100 most militarized universities includes prestigious institutions, as well as diploma mills that produce employees for military intelligence agencies and contractors (<https://news.vice.com/article/these-are-the-100-most-militarized-universities-in-america> ).

Major liberal foundations have long engaged in covert and overt operations to support imperial projection, described by David Horowitz as the “Sinews of Empire” in his important 1969 Ramparts article. They have been close associates of the Central Intelligence Agency, and were active in its instigation. The foundation created and supported Council on Foreign Relations has long been a link among Wall Street, large corporations, academia, the media, and our foreign and military policymakers.

Less obvious are the military connections of philanthropic, cultural, social service, environmental, and professional organizations. They are linked through donations; joint programs; sponsorship of events, exhibits, and concerts; awards (both ways); investments; boards of directors; top executives; and contracts. The data here covers approximately the last twenty years, and rounds out the reasons for the astounding support (according to the polls) that US citizens have conferred on our military, its budget, and its operations.

Military contractor philanthropy was the subject of my previous CP reports, in 2006 and 2016. Every type of nonprofit (as well as public schools and universities) received support from the major weapons manufacturers; some findings were outstanding. Minority organizations were extremely well endowed. For many years there was crucial support for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from Lockheed; Boeing also funded the Congressional Black Caucus. The former president and CEO of the NAACP, Bruce Gordon, is now on the Board of Trustees of Northrop Grumman. General Electric is the most generous military contractor philanthropist, with direct grants to organizations and educational institutions, partnerships with both, and matching contributions made by its thousands of employees. The latter reaches many of the nongovernmental and educational entities throughout the country.

Major donors to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (listed in its 2016 Annual Report) include the Defense Intelligence Agency, Cisco Systems, Open Society Foundations, US Department of Defense, General Electric, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Lockheed Martin. This is an echo of the

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CEIP's military connections reported in Horace Coon's book of the 1930s, *Money to Burn*.

The DoD itself donates surplus property to organizations; among those eligible are Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League Baseball, and United Service Organizations. The Denton Program allows non-governmental organizations to use extra space on U.S. military cargo aircraft to transport humanitarian assistance materials.

There is a multitude of joint programs and sponsorships. Here is a small sample. The American Association of University Women's National Tech Savvy Program encourages girls to enter STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) careers, with sponsorship from Lockheed, BAE Systems, and Boeing. Junior Achievement, sponsored by Bechtel, United Technologies, and others, aims to train children in market-based economics and entrepreneurship. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts is partnered with Northrop Grumman for an "early childhood STEM 'Learning through the Arts' initiative for pre-K and kindergarten students." The Bechtel Foundation has two programs for a "sustainable California"—an education program to help "young people develop the knowledge, skills, and character to explore and understand the world," and an environmental program to promote the "management, stewardship and conservation for the state's natural resources."

The NAACP ACT-SO is a "yearlong enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students," with sponsorship from Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman et al. The national winners receive financial awards from major corporations, college scholarships, internships, and apprenticeships—in the military industries.

In recent years the weapons makers have become enthusiastic environmentalists. Lockheed was a sponsor of the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation Sustainability Forum in 2013. Northrop Grumman supports Keep America Beautiful, National Public Lands Day, and a partnership with Conservation International and the Arbor Day Foundation (for forest restoration). United Technologies is the founding sponsor of the U.S. Green Building Council Center for Green Schools, and co-creator of the Sustainable Cities Design Academy. Tree Musketeers is a national youth environmental organization partnered by Northrop Grumman and Boeing.

Awards go both ways: industries give awards to nonprofits, and nonprofits awards to military industries and people. United Technologies, for its efforts in response to climate change, was on Climate A list of the Climate Disclosure Project. The Corporate Responsibility Association gave Lockheed position 8 in 2016 in its 100 Best Corporate Citizens List. Points of Light included General Electric and Raytheon in its 2014 list of the 50 Most Community-Minded Companies in America. Harold Koh, the lawyer who as Obama's advisor defended drone strikes and intervention in Libya, was recently given distinguished visiting professor status by Phi Beta Kappa. In 2017, the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility recognized 34 Young Hispanic Corporate Achievers; 3 were executives in the weapons industry. Elizabeth Amato, an executive at United Technologies, received the YWCA Women Achievers Award.

Despite laborious searching through tax form 990s, it is difficult to discover the specifics of organizations' investments. Many have substantial ones; in 2006, the American Friends Service Committee had \$3.5 million in revenue from investments. Human Rights Watch reported \$3.5 million investment income on its 2015 tax form 990, and more than \$107 million in endowment funds.

One of the few surveys of nonprofit policies (by Commonfund in 2012) found that only 17% of foundations used environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria in their investments. ESG seems to have replaced "socially responsible investing (SRI)" in investment terminology, and it has a somewhat different slant. The most common restriction is the avoidance of companies doing business in regions with



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conflict risk; the next relates to climate change and carbon emissions; employee diversity is also an important consideration. Commonfund study of charities, social service and cultural organizations reported that 70% of their sample did not consider ESG in their investment policies. Although 61% of religious organizations did employ ESG criteria, only 16% of social service organizations and 3% of cultural organizations did.

Weapon industries are hardly ever mentioned in these reports. Religious organizations sometimes still used the SRI investment screens, but the most common were alcohol, gambling, pornography, and tobacco. The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a resource for churches, lists almost 30 issues for investment consideration, including executive compensation, climate change, and opioid crisis, but none concerning weapons or war. The United Church (UCC) advisory, a pioneer in SRI investment policies, does include a screen: only companies should be chosen which have less than 10% revenue from alcohol or gambling, 1% from tobacco, 10% from conventional weapons and 5% from nuclear weapons.

The Art Institute of Chicago states on their website that “[W]ith the fiduciary responsibility to maximize returns on investment consistent with appropriate levels of risk, the Art Institute maintains a strong presumption against divesting for social, moral, or political reasons.” Listed as an associate is Honeywell International, and a major benefactor is the Crown Family (General Dynamics), which recently donated a \$2 million endowment for a Professorship in Painting and Drawing.

Nonprofit institutions (as well as individuals and pension funds of all sectors) have heavy investments in the funds of financial companies such as State Street, Vanguard, BlackRock, Fidelity, CREF, and others, which have portfolios rich in military industries (<https://worldbeyondwar.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/11/indirect.pdf>).

These include information technology firms, which, although often regarded as “socially responsible,” are among the major DoD contractors. In recent years foundations and other large nonprofits, such as universities, have favored investments in hedge funds, real estate, derivatives, and private equity. The Carnegie Endowment, more “transparent” than most, lists such funds on its 2015 tax form 990 (Schedule D Part VII). It is unlikely that Lockheed, Boeing, et al, are among the distressed debt bonanzas, so these institutions may be low on weapons stock.

Nevertheless, most of them have firm connections to the MIC through donations, leadership, and/or contracts. Close association with the military among nonprofit board members and executives works to keep the lid on anti-war activities and expression. The Aspen Institute is a think-tank that has resident experts, and also a policy of convening with activists, such as anti-poverty community leaders. Its Board of Trustees is chaired by James Crown, who is also a director of General Dynamics. Among other board members are Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, Javier Solana (former Secretary-General of NATO), and former Congresswoman Jane Harman. Harman “received the Defense Department Medal for Distinguished Service in 1998, the CIA Seal Medal in 2007, and the CIA Director’s Award and the National Intelligence Distinguished Public Service Medal in 2011. She is currently a member of the Director of National Intelligence’s Senior Advisory Group, the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations.”

Lifetime Aspen Trustees include Lester Crown and Henry Kissinger. In recent years, the Carnegie Corporation board of trustees included Condoleezza Rice and General Lloyd Austin III (Ret.), Commander of CENTCOM, a leader in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and also a board member of United Technologies. A former president of Physicians for Peace (not the similarly named well-known group) is Rear Admiral Harold Bernsen, formerly Commander of the US Middle East Force and not a physician.

TIAA, the college teachers’ retirement fund, had a CEO from 1993-2002, John H. Biggs, who was at the same time a director of Boeing. TIAA’s current board of directors includes an associate of a major military

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research firm, MITRE Corporations, and several members of the Council on Foreign Relations. Its senior executive Vice President, Rahul Merchant, is currently also a director at two information technology firms that have large military contracts: Juniper Networks and AASKI.

The American Association of Retired Persons' chief lobbyist from 2002-2007, Chris Hansen, had previously served in that capacity at Boeing. The current VP of communications at Northrop Grumman, Lisa Davis, held that position at AARP from 1996-2005. Board members and CEOs of the major weapons corporations serve on the boards of many nonprofits.

Just to indicate the scope, these include the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Newman's Own Foundation, New York Public Library, Carnegie Hall Society, Conservation International, Wolf Trap Foundation, WGBH, Boy Scouts, Newport Festival Foundation, Toys for Tots, STEM organizations, Catalyst, the National Science Center, the US Institute of Peace, and many foundations and universities.

The DoD promotes the employment of retired military officers as board members or CEOs of nonprofits, and several organizations and degree programs further this transition. U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Eden Murrie (Ret.) is now Director of Government Transformation and Agency Partnerships at the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service. She maintains that "[F]ormer military leaders have direct leadership experience and bring talent and integrity that could be applied in a nonprofit organization." ([www.seniormilitaryintransition.com/tag/eden-murrie/](http://www.seniormilitaryintransition.com/tag/eden-murrie/)). Given the early retirement age, former military personnel (and reservists) are a natural fit for positions of influence in federal, state, and local governments, school boards, nonprofits, and volunteer work; many are in those places.

Perhaps the coziest relationships under the insecurity blanket are the multitudes of contracts and grants the Department of Defense tenders to the nonprofit world. DoD fiscal reporting is notoriously inaccurate, and there were conflicting accounts between and within the online databases. Nevertheless, even a fuzzy picture gives a good idea of the depth and scope of the coverage.

From the TNC 2016 Annual Report: "The Nature Conservancy is an organization that takes care of people and land, and they look for opportunities to partner. They're nonpolitical. We need nongovernment organizations like TNC to help mobilize our citizens. They are on the ground. They understand the people, the politics, the partnerships. We need groups like TNC to subsidize what government organizations can't do" (Mamie Parker, Former Assistant Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arkansas Trustee, The Nature Conservancy).

Among the subsidies going the other way are 44 DoD contracts with TNC totaling several million for the years 2008-2018 (USA). These are for such services as Prairie Habitat Reforestation, \$100,000, and Runway and Biosecurity upkeep at Palmyra Atoll, HI, \$82,000 (USA). For the years 2000-2016, GCW lists a total of \$5,500,000 in TNC's DoD contracts.

Grants to TNC for specific projects, not clearly different from contracts, were much larger. Each is listed separately (USA); a rough count of the total was more than \$150 million. One \$55 million grant was for "Army compatible use buffer (acubs) in vicinity of Fort Benning military installation." Similar grants, the largest, \$14 million, were for this service at other bases. Another was for the implementation of Fort Benning army installation's ecological monitoring plan. Included in the description of these grants was the notice: "Assist State and local governments to mitigate or prevent incompatible civilian land use/activity that is likely to impair the continued operational utility of a Department of Defense (DoD) military installation. Grantees and participating governments are expected to adopt and implement the study recommendations."

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TNC's Form 990 for 2017 states its investment income as \$21 million. It reported government grants of \$108.5 million, and government contracts of \$9 million. These may include funds from state and local as well as all departments of the federal government. The Department of the Interior, which manages the vast lands used for bombing ranges and live ammunition war games, is another TNC grantor. Other environmental organizations sustained by DoD contracts are the National Audubon Society (\$945,000 for 6 years, GCW), and Point Reyes Bird Observatory (\$145,000, 6 years, GCW). USA reports contracts with Stichting Deltares, a Dutch coastal research institute, for \$550,000 in 2016, grants to the San Diego Zoo of \$367,000, and to the Institute for Wildlife Studies, \$1.3 million for shrike monitoring.

Goodwill Industries (training and employing the disabled, ex-offenders, veterans, and homeless people) is an enormous military contractor. Each entity is a separate corporation, based on state or region, and the total receipt is in the billions. For example, for 2000-2016 (GCW), Goodwill of South Florida had \$434 million and Southeastern Wisconsin \$906 million in contracts. Goods and services provided include food and logistics support, records processing, army combat pants, custodial, security, mowing, and recycling.

Similar organizations working for the DoD include the Jewish Vocational Service and Community Workshop, janitorial services, \$12 million over 5 years; Lighthouse for the Blind, \$4.5 million, water purification equipment; Ability One; National Institute for the Blind; Pride Industries; and Melwood Horticultural Training Center.

The DoD does not shun the work of Federal Prison Industries, which sells furniture and other products. A government corporation (and thus not a nonprofit), it had half a billion in sales to all federal departments in 2016. Prison labor, Goodwill Industries, and other sheltered-workshop enterprises, along with for profits employing immigrant workers, teenagers, retirees, and migrant workers (who grow food for the military and the rest of us), reveal the evolving nature of the US working class, and some explanation for its lack of revolutionary fervor, or even mild dissent from the capitalist system.

The well-paid, and truly diverse employees (including executives) of major weapons makers are also not about to construct wooden barricades. Boards of directors in these industries are welcoming to minorities and women. The CEOs of Lockheed and General Dynamics are women, as is the Chief Operating Officer of Northrop Grumman. These success stories reinforce personal aspirations among the have-nots, rather than questioning the system.

Contracts with universities, hospitals, and medical facilities are too numerous to detail here; one that illustrates how far the blanket stretches is with Oxford University, \$800,000 for medical research. Professional associations with significant contracts include the Institute of International Education, American Council on Education, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, National Academy of Sciences, Society of Women Engineers, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Society of Mexican-American Engineers, and U.S. Green Building Council.

The Council of State Governments (a nonprofit policy association of officials) received a \$193,000 contract for "preparedness" work. Let us hope we are well prepared. The leaders, staff, members, donors, and volunteers of nonprofit organizations are the kind of people who might have been peace activists, yet so many are smothered into silence under the vast insecurity blanket.

In addition to all the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the military establishment, many people with no connection still cheer it on. They have been subject to relentless propaganda for the military and its wars from the government, the print and digital press, TV, movies, sports shows, parades, and

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computer games—the latter teach children that killing is fun.

The indoctrination goes down easily. It has had a head start in the educational system that glorifies the violent history of the nation. Our schools are full of in-house tutoring, STEM programs, and fun robotics teams personally conducted by employees of the weapons makers. Young children may not understand all the connections, but they tend to remember the logos. The JROTC programs, imparting militaristic values, enroll far more children than the ones who will become future officers. The extremely well-funded recruitment efforts in schools include “fun” simulations of warfare.

There is a worldwide supporting cast for the complex that includes NATO, other alliances, defense ministries, foreign military industries, and bases, but that is a story for another day. The millions sheltered under our thick and broad blanket, including the enlistees under the prickly part of it, are not to blame. Some people may be thrilled by the idea of death and destruction. However, most are just trying to earn a living, keep their organization or rust belt afloat, or be accepted into polite company. They would prefer constructive work or income from healthy sources. Yet many have been indoctrinated to believe that militarism is normal and necessary. For those who consider change to be essential if life on this planet has a chance at survival, it is important to see all the ways that the military industrial-congressional-almost everything-complex is being sustained.

“Free market economy” is a myth. In addition to the huge nonprofit (non-market) sector, government intervention is substantial, not only in the gigantic military, but in agriculture, education, health care, infrastructure, economic development (!), et al. For the same trillions we could have a national economy that repairs the environment, provides a fine standard of living and cultural opportunities for all, and works for peace on earth.

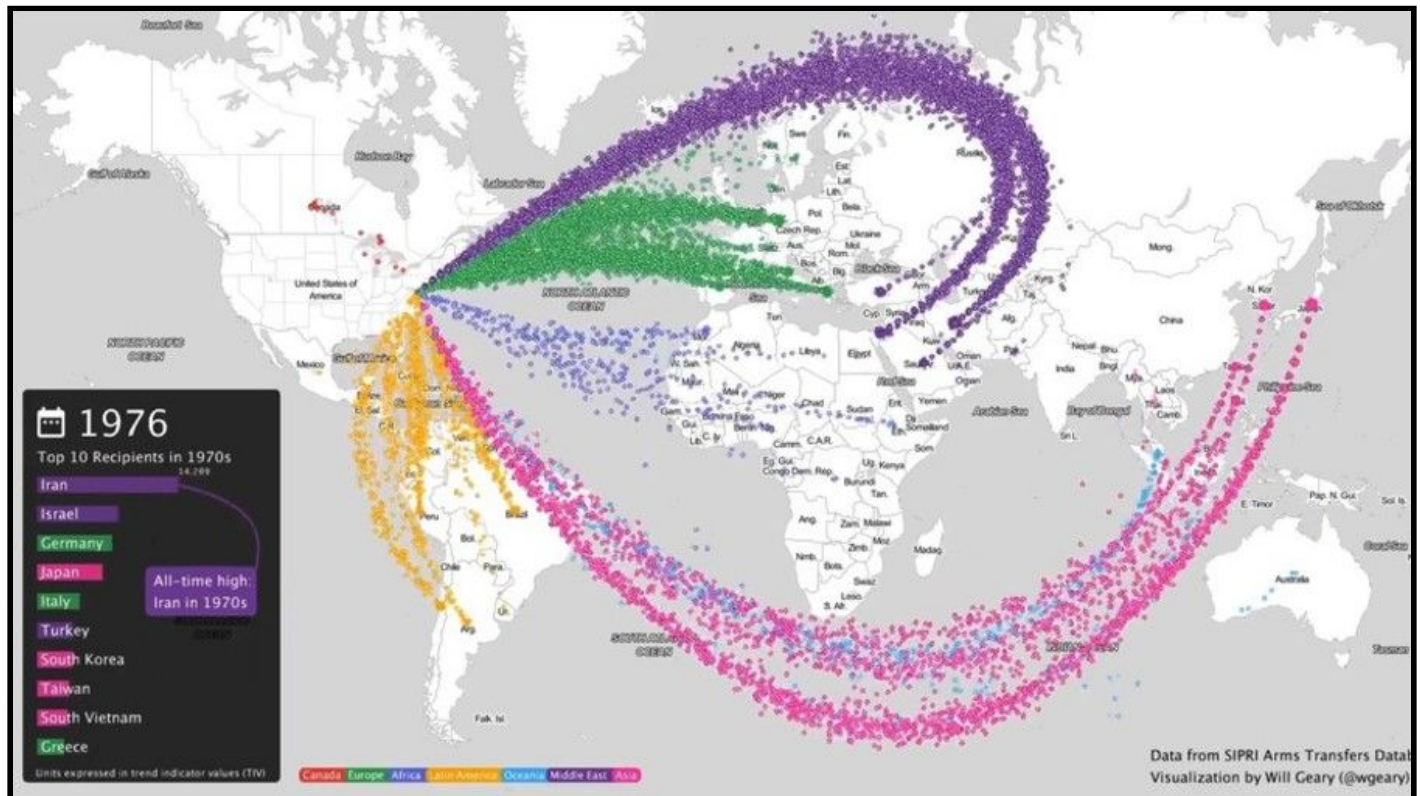


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## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

### Watch the vast flow of US arms exports over 6 decades

© Will Geary / @wgeary © Vimeo



A stunning timelapse video demonstrates the massive flow of US weapons exports across the globe over the last 67 years, revealing some surprising recipients in a video that's going viral.

Using data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Arms Transfers Database, which tracks the movement of major conventional weapons, data scientist Will Geary created the jaw-dropping data visualization which depicts a heavy deluge of US weapons flying across the globe from 1950 to 2017.





The US is the world's biggest arms exporter. In the 1950s, the majority of US arms went to Europe, Canada, Japan and Turkey. In the 1960s, Germany appeared to receive the largest amount of weapons, with Iran joining the list of recipients. Iran's receipt of US weapons reached an all-time high in the 1970s, right up to the fall of the US-backed Shah and the Iranian Revolution in 1979, making Iran the biggest receiver of weapons that decade. Israel climbed to second on the list of recipients in the 1970s.

[The United States of Arms](#) from [Will Geary](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Meanwhile, Japan saw the greatest amount of arms in the 1980s, followed by Saudi Arabia and then Israel and Egypt. This was largely repeated in the 1990s, while in the 2000s, South Korea and Israel took the greatest slice of the US arms pie. From 2010, Saudi Arabia received the greatest number of weapons, with Australia next in line.

After the US, Russia, France, Germany and China provide the greatest number of arms exports. Between 2013 and 2017, the US accounted for 34 percent of total arms exports, an increase of 25 percent from its exports between 2008-2012.

"Based on deals signed during the Obama administration, US arms deliveries in 2013-17

reached their highest level since the late 1990s," said Dr Aude Fleurant, director of the SIPRI Arms and Military Expenditure Programme. "These deals and further major contracts signed in 2017 will ensure that the USA remains the largest arms exporter in the coming years."

<https://www.rt.com/news/433502-us-arms-exports-map/>

## Stocks Prices for Weapons Manufacturers Rise Sharply After Paris Attacks

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John Vibes

(ANTIMEDIA) — A recent report by journalist Glenn Greenwald pointed out stock prices for weapons manufacturers sharply increased just after the terrorist attacks in Paris last week. Greenwald was following the tip of Brooklyn journalist Aaron Cantú, who posted screenshots for the recent stock performances of major weapons contractors on his Twitter page early Monday morning:

Defense industry stocks this morning following Friday night's attacks in Paris: [pic.twitter.com/8a35RcpPJ6](https://pic.twitter.com/8a35RcpPJ6)  
— Aaron Cantú (@aaronmiguel\_) November 16, 2015

On Monday, nearly as soon as the markets opened, stocks for weapons manufacturers began to soar — Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and Thales saw increases in a day that was rather calm for the rest of the market.

As Greenwald pointed out in his report, “The markets could barely wait to start buying. The Dow overall is up today only .12 percent, making these leaps quite pronounced.”

It seemed that the whole world knew immediately after the attacks that more war was on its way, and these rising stock values appear to substantiate the case. This week, various European countries, along with the United States, have promised more military action in the Middle East, despite the fact Western military intervention over the past decade created this mess to begin with.

Billions of dollars in tax money is spent every year so militaries can wage wars across the planet and there is an unspeakable amount of money to be made by the people who sell weapons and ammunition to countries at war. Arms dealers and weapons manufacturers never take sides, but are always happy to take billions of dollars from opposing nations in every war so they can destroy each other.

In fact, it could be argued that the financial incentive created by both the weapons industry and the plunder of foreign resources, is what drives governments to war to begin with. In fact, a recent study proved that resource-rich nations are 100 times more likely to have a foreign power intervene in their internal conflicts. There is a ton of money made in this industry, which is perhaps why people spread the popular myth that “war is good for the economy.” However, it should be obvious this industry isn't good for anyone economically, aside from perhaps politicians and weapons manufacturers, as countless people are killed and untold damage is done to property — creating a situation where the economy will end up less profitable because less people are working, creating, and becoming entrepreneurs.

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<https://theantimedia.com/stocks-prices-for-weapons-manufacturers-rise-sharply-after-paris-attacks/>

## What is Capitalism

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by Mark Maxey



(PADEN, OK) “If everyone who identifies as a leftist, were to receive a call today that the revolution started tomorrow, 9 am, no one would know what to do,” Mark Maxey, National Coordinator for Movement 4 People’s Democracy (MPD) said. “The left is fractionated, too broad with no clear plan.” The answer lies with Crush Capitalism, Maxey reflected. The root cause of 100% of our global issues

is a direct path to capitalism.

“War, lack of world peace, wage disparity, union busting, denying human rights, environmental ills, class dividing are all products of capitalism,” Maxey stated.

“In the 1970s as a 13-year-old middle school student, in California, at that time the Chicano Moratorium was happening, Joseph Hancock, Director of Labor Today said. “The Moratorium, also progressed by our teachers and students rallying against the Vietnam War.” The protests were to bring to awareness that military recruiting/drafting was affecting more persons of color than the whites.”

Socialist Review article by Sally Campbell looks directly into this issue. In the article, it states, “The century since the slaughter in the First World War has been littered with endless more bloody wars. Sally Campbell argues the drive to war is not accidental but inherent in the logic of capitalism.” Sally goes on to say, “This minority of the capitalist class, according to Kautsky [Karl Kautsky, a leading member of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD)], had managed to convince the majority of industrial capitalists that they could only defend their interests in the colonies – raw materials and labor – through war and empire-building. In fact, said Kautsky, the capitalists of different nations could agree peacefully to divide up the world and exploit it.”

The only men who benefit from wars are those with a political agenda.

Divide and Conquer, or the American form, Colonization, is a tool to divide the classes as well as wedge a potential threat of extinction within the races.

Journalist, and National Coordinator for MPD, Mark Maxey, wrote on this very subject late fall of 2018. “Early reformers used their religious beliefs to justify their Manifest Destiny perspective. It

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overflowed into Congress, which passed Manifest Destiny-themed bills. Indigenous people, meanwhile, were on the receiving end of this religious zealotry. Rape, abuse, kidnap, murder, and genocide were the end results for them. The recent quoting of Biblical scripture by Attorney General Jeff Sessions to justify the stealing of immigrant children from their parents shows that this ideology is still very much alive among at least some sectors of the U.S. government.”

As the long-time U.S. Indian Service teacher and agent Albert H. Kneale noted in his 1950 autobiography Indian Agent, the U.S. Government “went on the assumption that any Indian custom was, per se, objectionable, whereas the customs of whites were the ways of civilization.”

Capitalism is still playing into the mythology of white Manifest Destiny, which goes back to the earliest colonial settlements. Trump’s policies are aimed at stoking the racist anger and resentment of his mass base, but they reflect the interests of the same oligarchy that Sen. Bernie Sanders assailed in his bid for the presidency. In every way, the current administration’s policies show favoritism to those at the top and seek any way possible to divide those outside the ranks of the super-wealthy.

Trump and his team’s “law and order” framework is the same one articulated by President Richard Nixon in the late 1960s and more subtly invoked by Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton as they ramped up the drug war and fueled massive prison expansions during their times in office. We jail and separate families at the border to deter illegal immigration just as we jail and separate poor families within our country because they can’t afford bail or proper legal representation.

It is through the inequalities of power and wealth, capitalism nurtures economic inequality alongside equality under the law.

TruthOut, published a similar story in 2018. Richard Wolff stated Economic Update: Capitalism Breeds Inequality, in his article. The audio article stated, This week’s episode discusses how globalization has worsened inequality and injustice, how Quebec’s doctors are rejecting pay increases, the significance of the YMCA workers’ strike in Chicago, and the growing Japanese co-op movement.

Paul Farrell’s 2015 article for Market Watch, said, Capitalism is killing America’s morals, our future. In 2013 Six theses were written on the same subject of how capitalism quashes human rights.

In a 1999 class presentation, from a Sociology class at the University of Regina, says the class division is one of the exponents of capitalism. For Marx, the analysis of social class, class structures and changes in those structures are key to understanding capitalism and other social systems or modes of production. In the Communist Manifesto Marx and Engels comment that the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.

Tithi Bhattacharya and Lance Selfa reported in International Socialist Review. They stated, “This conversation about race, class, and capitalism obviously needs to develop more broadly...”

So capitalism seems to be the ONE item that the left can rally around to crush to bring about a more socialist world. Crush capitalism is the ROUTE for any true revolution for the left.

If the left, rallied around crushing capitalism, then most of our societal problems would disappear completely. Start the new year, 2019 by crushing capitalism, then the left is truly leading the RIGHT revolution.

<https://movement4peoplesdemocracy.blogspot.com/2018/12/its-capitalism.html>



## It's Capitalism Part #2

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By Mark Maxey



(PADEN, Okla.) Michael Roberts reports, the top 1% own 48% of all global personal wealth; 10% own 85%. He goes on to say, “This year’s report showed some interesting variations. In the report, personal wealth is measured by the value of the property and financial assets after deducting any debt held by adults. During the 12 months to mid-2018, aggregate global wealth rose by \$14 trillion to \$317 trillion, representing a growth rate of 4.6%. This was sufficient to outpace population growth, so that wealth per adult grew by 3.2%, raising the global mean average wealth to \$63,100 per

adult, a record high (but remember this in nominal dollar terms, before inflation).”

Now, honestly, do you as an adult have \$63,100 at your hands to spend right now?

Probably like many working class citizen, you do not. This is wealth inequality. At the hands of the capitalists.

What does the term capitalist mean? In the past, it was synonymous with Industrial Owner, Elitist, Robber Barons. A definition of Robber Baron is a person who has become rich through ruthless and unscrupulous business practices. Remember the term in the 1920’s Shantytowns or Company towns. One must watch the CORPORATION video to fully understand the negative impact corporations have on individual working class folks. You can listen also to the False Flag podcast on the same subject. Some research notes with links can be found here also.

Some may ask what a capitalist is. It is a wealthy person who uses the money to invest in trade and industry for profit in accordance with the principles of capitalism. True capitalism needs a competitive market. Without competition, monopolies exist, and instead of the market setting the prices, the seller is the price setter, which is against the conditions of capitalism.

Sounds good huh? But consider the report by Michael Roberts. If the top 1% own 48% of all global personal wealth; 10% own 85%, then obviously the “free” competitive market is held by either the top 1% or the top 10%. Not the working class.

Who are the working class you may ask. The working class (or labouring class) comprises the people employed for wages, especially in manual-labour occupations and industrial work. So the owners only desire profit. They do not even consider the risk to the environment for their profit. They easily move American Union held jobs overseas where the pay is much cheaper. And the “working class” especially the Union workers, are left with no jobs. The company owner does not care.



## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

The wealth inequality gap has grown so much wider in the past forty years. CNN in 2017 reported, "while wages for low- and middle-income workers have begun to recover, wealth inequality has still climbed to new heights, according to a new survey from the Federal Reserve which conducts a checkup of the nation's finances every three years."

The income inequality gap is higher now in our society than any other generation in history. Jaffe says, "Of course, as Rebecca Burns writes, "it's much easier to predict the future when you have the power and money to shape it."" As long as this gap is huge, the worker remains in slavery with their CEO. Michael J. Moore in the Winter 2016 NEW POLITICS magazine speaks of this. "Of course, economic inequality raises concern among liberals, social democrats, and socialists alike. For all see in it an ethical problem, one of unfairness, of greed, of unequal control and power. But the new explosion of wealth inequality is much larger in scale than in the previous Gilded Age. It poses different questions with respect to the transformation of capitalism and the classical models and assumptions within which left politics typically operate."

Economic inequality leads to broader, more general forms of power and control. Despite the dynamic nature of capitalism, the persistence of oligarchy and elite control should still be seen as the central, salient feature of modern society. To successfully fight this oligarchy is to move more LEFT, such as Democratic Socialism. As well common workers have an ally with one of the original workers union in America. The International Workers of the World, IWW ([www.iww.org](http://www.iww.org)) can assist in organizing, As well grassroots organizations, Our Revolution (Sen. Bernie Sanders spin off group) Our Democracy, The Young Turks, Black Lives Matter, and MPD ([www.movement4peoplesdemocracy.org](http://www.movement4peoplesdemocracy.org)) are all groups which can help amass and organize with breaking up these oligarchies, The early muckrakers left a formidable change for investigative journalists,

The model for current work places has changed from my own understanding as I learned in the mid to late 1970's. The whole workplace model has evolved with a concise plan that has taken over 40 years to implement. Many younger so-called knowledge workers no longer toil nine to five in a regular office but spend days and nights in front of their laptops at home or in co-working spaces. Part of the economics of the business model began to change in the 1970's with the work done by Milton Friedman. Milton was the new father of a new economic model in the 60's through the 80's which in turn set in motion a drastic change that totally tilted workers rights. You can read more on Milton [here](#).

The America I knew, back in the late sixties and early seventies is not the America of today. "The change took place in the 1970s. There are a lot of reasons for it," Noam Chomsky says. "One of the underlying factors, discussed mainly by economic historian Robert Brenner, was the falling rate of profit in manufacturing. There were other factors. It led to major changes in the economy – a reversal of several hundred years of progress towards industrialization and development that turned into a process of de-industrialization and de-development. Of course, manufacturing production continued overseas very profitably, but it's no good for the workforce."

Many of my peers nowhere come close to where their parents were financially at the same age. The economy has depleted their savings, no retirement funds. No vacation or weekend getaway property. Today's Generation X and the Millennials are faced with a stark reality of being broke. It was in the 1970's when Milton Friedman's economic plan was put into place by the extreme fascist right-wing. This is the context I use fascism. Benito Mussolini consolidated control over the Fascist movement in 1919 with the founding of the Fasci italiani di combattimento, whose opposition to socialism he declared: We declare war against socialism, not because it is socialism, but because it has opposed nationalism." Fascism further means a governmental system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting all industry, commerce, etc., and emphasizing an aggressive nationalism and often racism. Does this sound familiar? "But Friedman was more than an academic. He

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was an advocate for, and popularizer of, a radical right-wing economic ideology,” Bernie Sander said. “With all due respect to the late Milton Friedman, his economic program is nothing more than a wish list for the greediest, the most monied interests in our society. At the same time that this ideology is supported by the rich and powerful-except when they’re lining up in Washington for their welfare checks-this same ideology is almost unanimously opposed to working families and middle-class people across this country.”

The Republican right wing establishment has been dismantling our American dream. This has been going on for over forty years. Cold calculated robbing the working class of any opportunities. All the while lining their pockets from their corporate sponsors. Representing the corporations, capitalists, and not the citizens, the workers. Neither parties are the answer. It will have to be something new.

The lyrics from Jimmy LaFave poignantly says it best, a Worn Out American Dream. The changes to corporate America has caused this nightmare. Union busting tactics is another nightmare. The conglomeration of big business has caused it too. Toss in offshore accounts and overseas industrialization is a culprit too. Loss of jobs, reduced pay and diminishing benefits has decimated the working class. When the top Ten companies represent the retail market, I can tell you the workers don’t share in the profits.

Michael Yates, in Monthly Review said, “Wages have changed considerably along with the cost of living in the past forty years. Others are not so fortunate. In 2010, more than 7 million people had incomes less than 50 percent of the official poverty level of income, an amount equal to \$11,245, which in hourly terms (2,000 hours of work per year) is \$5.62. About one-quarter of all jobs in the United States pay an hourly wage rate that would not support a family of four at the official poverty level of income.”

Michael D. Yates wrote for Monthly Review: It is by now well known that significant and growing economic inequality is a central feature of the U.S. economy, as previous articles in Monthly Review have shown. However, the same is also the case for much of the rest of the world. Inequality arises in other countries for reasons similar to those in the United States, but each nation has its own history, along with widely divergent economic and political structures.

<https://movement4peoplesdemocracy.blogspot.com/2018/12/its-capitalism-part-2-by-mark-maxey.html>

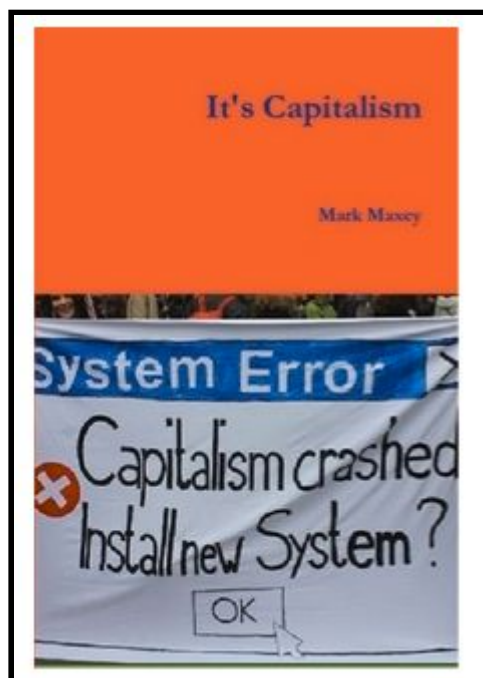


Oklahoman Mark Maxey is a Yuchi Indian, enrolled in the Muscogee Nation, and has a degree in radio/TV/film. He is a member of the National Writers Union, UAW Local 1981/AFL-CIO. He’s worked as an administrative assistant, petroleum landman, barista, staff writer, paralegal, content producer and graphic designer. He spent six months as a National Data Team volunteer for the Bernie Sanders for President campaign.

## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

### MPD New Book for Sale

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"If everyone who identifies as a leftist, were to receive a call today that the revolution started tomorrow, 9 am, no one would know what to do," Mark Maxey, National Coordinator for Movement 4 People's Democracy said. "The left is fractionated, too broad with no clear plan."

The answer lies with Crushing Capitalism, Maxey reflected. The root cause of 100% of our global issues is a direct path to capitalism.

"War, lack of world peace, wage disparity, union busting, denying human rights, environmental ills, child sex-trafficking, class dividing are all products of capitalism."

We Must CRUSH CAPITALISM!

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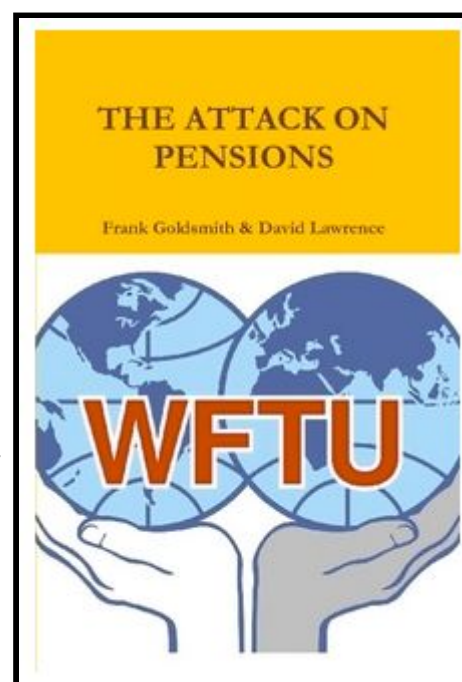
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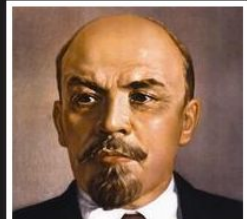
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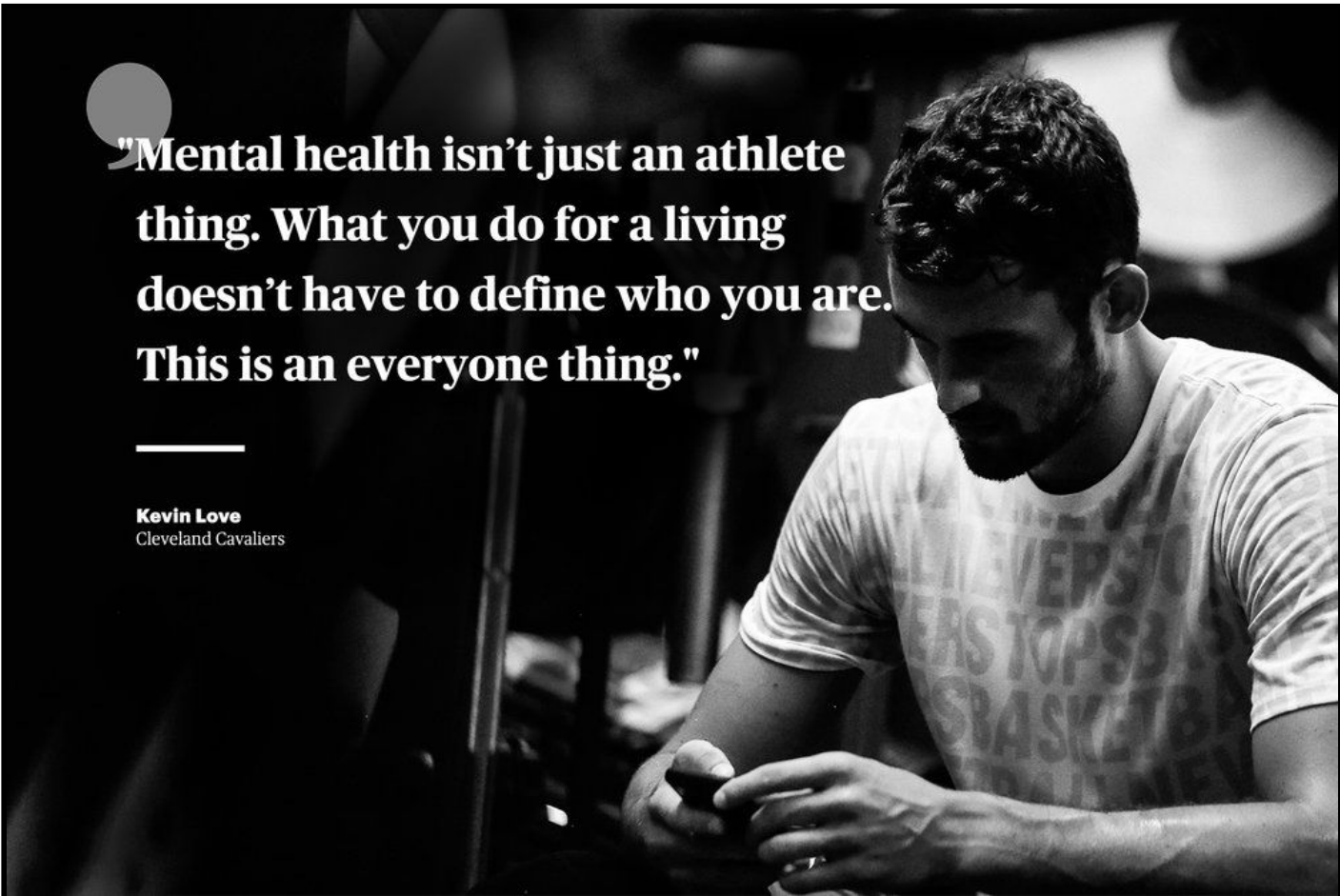
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## Taking mental health back into our hands 2019

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BY JESSE PALMER



**"Mental health isn't just an athlete thing. What you do for a living doesn't have to define who you are. This is an everyone thing."**

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**Kevin Love**  
Cleveland Cavaliers

Sometimes it can be hard to know if you're crazy, or if it's the world that's crazy. Watching while our society destroys itself triggers despair and anxiety. Yet it is possible to summon the courage to stay engaged with the world, survive and fight back. When you're suffering from depression and anxiety is often the hardest time to ask for help from others around you – and paradoxically when you need help the most. Feelings exist for reasons – if you repress them too hard, you can miss important lessons they may have for you. Here are some tips you can use when you're in crisis which can also be helpful if you're trying to care for someone having a breakdown.

- It can help to turn your focus from the crisis and onto what you find joyful until you can gather resources.
- Our brains are connected to our bodies so concentrating on physical health can help treat mental distress. Eating healthy food on a regular schedule and getting enough sleep are key. Exercise, dance, biking and physical movement can help. So can fresh air and having a stable, calming place to stay.



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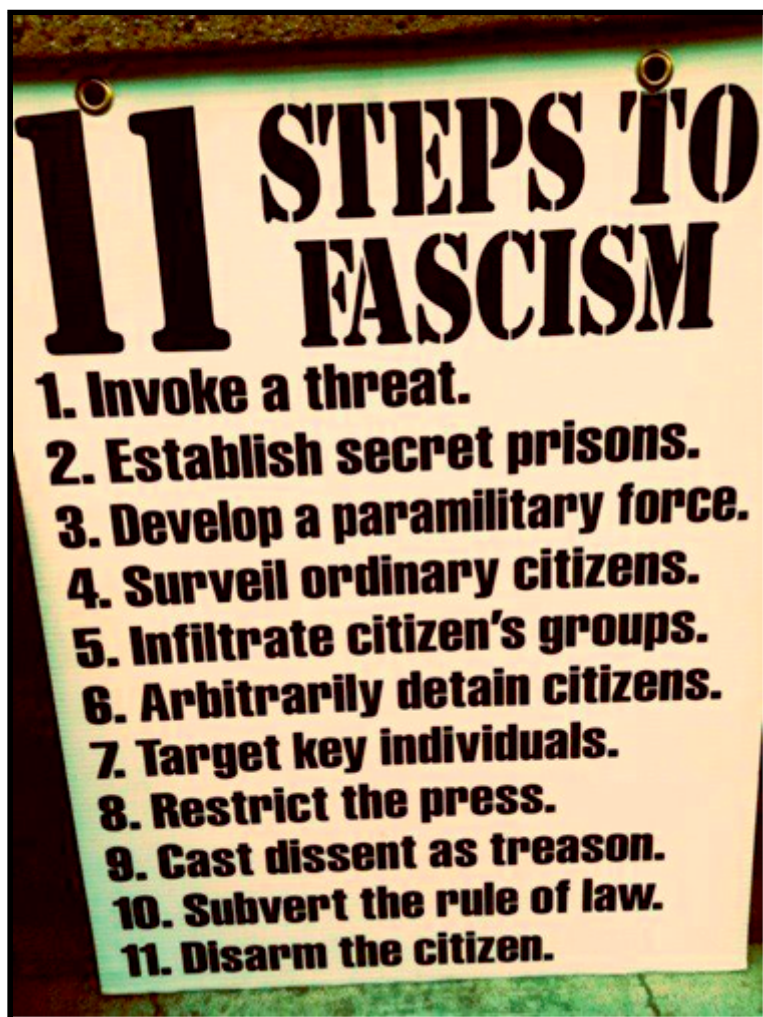
- It is okay to ask for help or to discuss disturbing mental states with others. It helps everyone when these feelings are out of the closet.
  - When things are really painful or stressful, it can help to step back and disconnect from feelings that you'll be destroyed unless you achieve a particular outcome like keeping a particular lover or avoiding changes. Change is inevitable and our greatest source of pain can be our attachment to keeping things static. A year or two from now, whatever is happening now will be a memory and the pain of wishing it was otherwise will be gone. Most changes, even when they are painful, open up other opportunities.
- Joining a mutual support group of peers listening to and helping peers as equals can be validating, while not necessarily endorsing your feelings. You can form one yourself or join an ongoing group.
- Find a counselor who supports your self-determination. Ask about confidentiality if someone else — such as your parents, boss, or governmental program — is paying for your therapy.
- Drugs and alcohol often make mental health problems worse.
- There is no shame in using psychiatric drugs such as those for depression or bipolar disorder if you know they work for you.
- Acupuncture, meditation, massage and other alternatives can help some people.
- Keep in mind that some current emotional crises may be caused by traumas from the past, which may need to be emotionally and consciously processed in order not to keep recurring.
- When you're depressed, the most helpful thing to realize is that the depressed feeling will eventually pass and your life will begin to seem meaningful again later. Depression inhibits your ability to perceive and understand the world correctly. Your perceptions of isolation, loneliness, un-lovability, and hopelessness are not accurate when you are depressed. You have to get through the low point so you can correctly understand reality again on the other side. Avoid making any decisions or drastic moves such as hurting yourself when you are unable to correctly perceive reality.
- Many communities have 24 hour a day crisis hotlines or crisis centers. Call 800-SUICIDE or the Trevor Project at 866-488-7386 if you're thinking about killing yourself or 800 646-HOPE to reach a rape crisis line for survivors of sexual violence.
- Ecopsychology is realizing nature and wilderness are our greatest healers. Spend some time outside the city to get centered and get away from pollution which is in itself mind-altering.
- If you have a loved one in crisis, the most helpful thing is to make it clear that you care and be there to listen. They may not be able to call or ask for help — it can be very helpful to keep calling them every day or two to check-in, even if they don't answer the phone or seem to want help. Sometimes it is okay to want to be alone so don't be too pushy. Just make it clear that you care. It's also import to get support and advice for yourself. Caring about someone who is in crisis is in itself a big challenge.
- Social change: Actually address the stressful factors in your environment. Revolution can heal.
- If someone is having delusional thinking or expressing violence related to mental issues, these suggestions may not be enough and it is okay to reach out for professional help.

<https://slingshotcollective.org/taking-mental-health-back-into-our-hands-2019/>

## Fighting fascist ideology

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By John Gallo



Fascist ideology is once again in the open, spouting its racist, misogynist, genocidal ideas. In this article, I do not intend to discuss fascism per se. I want to address the views expressed by one Jared Taylor of the American Renaissance. These ideas are dangerous and must be vigorously refuted, especially to those who are unfamiliar with the fascism of the past century.'

If you have a good stomach, you can watch his 8 minute video. I welcome your comments.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=iojqVgRXevA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iojqVgRXevA)

Taylor: Why is diversity better? How do 36 million Mexicans and 9 million Muslims make America better? Without racial diversity, there would be no race riots, no dangerous inner cities, no Black Lives Matter, no affirmative action,... no discrimination lawsuits, no diversity training. There would also be no white privilege, no white guilt, no racial conflict or tension at all. [We'd have] a peaceful, unified, care free America.

JG: No races, no race riots (great insight). But the mere existence of races does not cause the rare riots, et al. These come

from racial discrimination and oppression, not by white people in general, but by those who have the economic power to do so, no matter their ethnicity. Without women, there would be no sexual abuse lawsuits, no mass demonstrations for equal rights. Without children, there would be no child abuse. Without poor people or people without jobs or with low paying jobs, there would be no economic inequality.

The idea that without race, we (meaning white people) would "have a peaceful, unified, care free America" is stupid, amoral and fascistic. It means removing every non-white person from the U.S., either to another country or to their graves. This is called ethnic cleansing. An individual may not agree with that solution, but logically there is no other possible solution.

Racial homogeneity has not prevented wars. Wars, human slaughter, rape, destruction of cities, looting and torture have been embedded in history. Ancient Romans against the Greeks; the Germanic "barbarians" sacked the Roman Empire. The German peasant uprisings against the feudal lords; the 100 years war (14th century) between France and England; the 30 years war in Europe (17th century); the civil

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war between Ireland and Britain, in the 20th century; World Wars I and II; Serbs vs. Croats; and many more. These were all white against white; no other races, but no peace. One could also mention the "dangerous cities" during prohibition like Chicago and other cities infested with white gangsters killing other white gangsters. Same in Asia (Japanese vs. Chinese and Koreans); Middle East (Iraq v. Iran, Saudi Arabia v. Yemen), Africa (Hutu v. Tutsi ), etc., etc. No different races involved, but also no peace.

Taylor: Robert Putnam of Harvard is one of many researchers to find that racial diversity destroys trust... People who live in a racial, ethnic mish-mash neighborhood, like Los Angeles, don't trust their neighbors, or politicians, have few close friends, don't get involved in their community or volunteer work and are less likely to vote. Only thing they do more is go on protest marches and watch Television.

JG. Opinions, not evidence. Taylor's only named source is Robert Putnam, Harvard professor. But Putnam says Taylor is wrong. Putnam contends that his 2007 paper has been "twisted" to make a case against race-conscious diversity, asserting that, on the contrary, extensive research and experience confirm the substantial benefits of racial and ethnic diversity, to our society."

<https://www.chronicle.com/blogs/percolator/robert-putnam-says-his-research-was-twisted/30357>

Here's a few nush-mash cities with low crime rates, no riots, with involved residents: Cleveland Hts. (50% white, 43% Black). Shaker Hts. (55% white, 34% Black, 6% Asian). Beachwood (white 77%, Black 14%, Asian 7%). There are very likely more examples. What is missing in these three cities is poverty and a lack of services. Could these be somewhat responsible for crime?

Taylor. Diversity destroys culture... Diversity means you have to satisfy everyone. Diversity destroyed Oakland symphony because only whites and a few Asians listen to European music and Oakland became less white. It is responsible for all the violent movies because it's for the world market, the least common denominator.

JG. Diversity cannot destroy culture. All societies have culture, defined as the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a social group, the characteristic features of everyday existence; the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices. It's not just the arts and language. The U.S. has an overall culture as well as various ethnic cultures. Some aspects are positive and helpful to people, such as a commitment to democracy and empathy for people with difficulties. Others are negative and harmful, such as our fetish for guns, which has been part of our culture since the earliest colonies. Witness the the genocide against indigenous peoples and the wild west.

Most movies have been violent, when Hollywood was all white, as were most moviegoers. Our history has been replete with military actions and conquests. Twelve of our Presidents were military generals. Every veteran (except those for peace) is honored and praised. Many people like action, violent movies, but the function of these movies is to make wars and violence normal and acceptable - and, of course, to make money. The purveyors of pop culture reduce the arts to the lowest common denominator to distract the people from thinking about who runs society and how to change it.

Taylor: Diversity is the destruction of everything that is rooted, that is authentic, that arises out of a shared heritage. Genuine diversity (?) means preserving what is rooted and authentic and the common heritage of a distinct people.... We (sic) are being swamped. Everything we love, everything we (sic) have built will be lost if we turn our (sic) country over to people who are not us. We will lose our very selves if non-white immigration continues, and every institution in the U.S. promotes inter-marriage, in 200 years there will be no more white people.

JG. Rolling back miscegenation. To follow Taylor's ideas to their logical conclusion - after the forced

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removal or genocide - the following would have to be done to fully restore our culture.

Rename all MLK streets.

Rename the 26 states with Indian names. <https://goo.gl/nJY4Vy> And the thousands of towns, cities, counties, rivers, lakes, mountains, cars, sports teams with Indian names.

Stop eating Native American Indians foods introduced to Europeans: tomatoes, beans, potatoes, wild rice, salmon, pumpkins, squash, peppers, peanuts, chocolate, vanilla, blueberries, turkey, maple syrup, and corn, among other foods. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352618116300750>

Change the names of hundreds of cities with Spanish names (English only!), mostly in Texas and the south west ( lands that the U.S. took from Mexico).

Close down Mexican, Indian, Chinese, African and middle east restaurants and eat only white food. No jazz, blues, Gospel or Salsa. Erase the enormous contributions, especially by African Americans, to the English language, literature, art and dance. And where would pro sports be without the mish-mash teams populated with whites, Blacks, Hispanics and even Asians?

Sounds stupid, right? But , genocide has been tried quite often, from the Inquisition to Columbus to W.W. II. I don't believe most white working people buy into this crap. But those that do are are facing the wrong way. It's not other working people, whether Blacks or Hispanics here or workers abroad, who are the enemy. It's their f...ing bosses, the corporations, bankers and their bipartisan corporate politicians -the entire capitalist system-- who are dividing us, exploiting and oppressing us and destroying our culture. Working people of all colors and genders, and their allies, must unite to fight not only the current crop of fascism but throw the entire system on the scrap heap of history. ###

White Culture. An interesting article.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/26/white-culture-statistics-vegetables-alcohol>

<https://movement4peoplesdemocracy.blogspot.com/2018/12/fighting-fascist-ideology.html>





## #CrookedTrump & Hate Crimes

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Movement 4 People's Democracy (MPD) condemns the past four days of five hate crimes across the United States. These acts of terrorism which we believe were, and are, inspired by the dangerous and hateful imperialistic nationalism rhetoric of the President of the United State, Donald J. Trump. We hold him, his administration, and his followers responsible for these unspeakable acts.

On Friday, December 7, a fire destroyed a Jehovah's Witnesses house of worship. It was the fifth attack this year targeting the religious group in Washington state, federal officials said.

The next day, a black man was assaulted at a bar in Lynnwood, Washington, by eight self-professed members of a neo-Nazi skinhead group, according to the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office. Members of the group allegedly yelled racist slurs during the incident, and an employee identified as an Asian man was injured as he tried to intervene.

On Sunday, Dec. 9, Pittsburgh officials said that anti-Semitic pamphlets were being spread throughout the city, including in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood, the site of a mass shooting that targeted Jews in October. The same day, Nazi-themed posters were found in various locations around the State University of New York's Purchase College. A student was arrested in connection with the posters and charged with a hate crime, the Westchester County District Attorney's Office said.

On Monday, Dec. 10, a 21-year-old man was arrested for allegedly plotting to kill worshipers in a Jewish synagogue in Toledo, officials said.

The recent headlines reflect a broader trend, according to civil rights groups. There's been a rise in reports of such incidents over the past three years, they say -- a trend that is also borne out by federal data.

We say NO MORE! The violence must end. The racism must end. The religious bigotry must end. The hatred must end. We encourage all democratically minded people to come out in solidarity with the victims. Stop the massacres and the right-wing death squads now! Crooked Trump and his goons must be stopped!

#CrookedTrump



## Blowback: An Inside Look at How US-Funded Fascists in Ukraine Mentor US White Supremacists

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Not only are white supremacists from across the West flocking to Ukraine to learn from the combat experience of their fascist brothers-in-arms, they are doing so openly, under the nose of a shrugging law enforcement – chronicling their experiences on social media before they bring their lessons back home.

by Max Blumenthal

Last month, an unsealed FBI indictment of four American white supremacists from the Rise Above Movement (RAM) declared that the defendants had trained with Ukraine's Azov Battalion, a neo-Nazi militia officially incorporated into the country's national guard. The training took place after the white supremacist gang participated in violent riots in Huntington Beach and Berkeley, California and Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017.

The indictment stated that the Azov Battalion "is believed to have participated in training and radicalizing United States-based white supremacy organizations."

After a wave of racist violence across America that culminated in the massacre of twelve Jewish worshippers at a Pittsburgh synagogue, the revelation that violent white supremacists have been traveling abroad for training and ideological indoctrination with a well-armed neo-Nazi militia should cause extreme alarm.

Not only are white supremacists from across the West flocking to Ukraine to learn from the combat experience of their fascist brothers-in-arms, they are doing so openly – chronicling their experiences on social media before they bring their lessons back home. But U.S. law enforcement has done nothing so far to restrict the flow of right-wing American extremists to Azov's bases.

There is one likely explanation for the U.S. government's hands-off approach to Azov recruitment: the extremist militia is fighting pro-Russian separatists as a front-line proxy of Washington. In fact, the United States has directly armed the Azov Battalion, forking over anti-tank rocket launchers and even sending a team of Army officers to meet in the field with Azov commanders in 2017.

Though Congress passed legislation this year forbidding military aid to Azov on the grounds of its white supremacist ideology, the Trump administration's authorization of \$200 million in offensive weaponry and aid to the Ukrainian military makes it likely new stores of weapons will wind up the extremist regiment's hands. When queried by reporters about evidence of American military training of Azov personnel, multiple U.S. army spokespersons admitted there was no mechanism in place to prevent that from happening.

Today, Azov boasts combat experience, unlimited access to light weapons, and supporters honeycombed throughout the upper echelons of Ukraine's military and government. No longer just a militia, the organization has developed into a political juggernaut that can overpower Ukraine's government. Two

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years ago, the group flexed its muscle on the streets of Kiev, bringing out 10,000 supporters to demand that the government bend to their will or face a coup.

“With its military experience and weapons, Azov has the ability to blackmail the government and defend themselves politically against any opposition. They openly say that if the government will not advance an ideology similar to theirs, they will overthrow it,” Ivan Katchanovski, a professor of political science at the University of Ottawa and leading expert on Ukraine’s far-right, commented to me. He continued, explaining:

*Currently the organizations that are fascist are stronger in Ukraine than in any other country in the world. But this fact is not reported by Western media because they see these organizations as supportive of the geopolitical agenda against Russia. So condemnations are limited to violence or human rights abuses.”*

The revelations of collaboration between violent American white supremacists and a neo-Nazi militia armed by the Pentagon add another scandalous chapter to a long history of blowback that dates back to the 1950’s, when the CIA rehabilitated several Ukrainian Nazi collaborators as anti-communist assets in the Cold War.

The almost unbelievable story exposes an axis of fascism that stretches across the Atlantic, from the Ukrainian capital of Kiev to the sun-washed suburbs of Southern California, where some of the most rabid modern white supremacist gangs were born.

### The white nationalist Fight Club

This October, four members of the RAM gang – Robert Rundo, Benjamin Drake Daley, Michael Paul Mirelis, and Aaron Eason – were arrested by FBI agents. They were accused of “using the internet to encourage, promote, participate in, and carry out riots” from Huntington Beach to Berkeley, California. Four other members had been arrested in connection with their participation in the white supremacist riot in Charlottesville, Virginia, where a counter-protester, Heather Heyer, was killed in a vehicular homicide by a white supremacist.

RAM first appeared in the national limelight during a celebration of Donald Trump’s election victory in Huntington Beach in March 2017. As about one hundred far-right activists marched along the beach donned in red “Make America Great Again” caps and waving Trump flags, they were confronted by a small group of masked anti-racist counter-demonstrators. When a melee ensued, RAM members assaulted their outnumbered opponents, pummeling them into submission and even attacking a local reporter. Afterwards, Orange County police arrested several anti-racist demonstrators, but the RAM gang walked free.

RAM markets itself as a self-defense organization that protects the free speech of white Americans against an onslaught of “Cultural Marxism,” a classic anti-Semitic trope. Its founders emphasize a vaguely anti-consumerist Fight Club mentality along with a rigorous dedication to mixed martial arts. Its co-founder, Rundo, operates an online clothing and apparel company, Right Brand Clothing, that hawks

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slickly designed t-shirts promoting “European Brotherhood,” stickers emphasizing a straight-edge “nationalist lifestyle,” and ethically sourced designer “Demagogue pants” (yes, white supremacists apparently care about sweatshops). RAM members can be seen at the site modeling their gear with a clean-cut “fashy” look that contrasts sharply with the stereotypical image of skinheads in jackboots.

RAM’s careful attention to its public image has not stopped its members from putting their crude neo-Nazi ideology on display at rallies, however. During the Huntington Beach riot, for example, RAM’s Robert Boman was seen waving a sign reading “Da Goyim Know.” This alt-right slogan refers to the white nationalist understanding of the supposed Jewish plot to dominate the world.



“I’m a big supporter of the Fourteen, I’ll say that,” RAM’s Rundo proclaimed into a camera in Huntington Beach. The gang leader was referring to the notorious 14-word slogan coined by convicted white supremacist terrorist David Lane, which has become a rallying cry for fascists across the globe: “We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children.”

Two months after the violence in Huntington Beach, two RAM members were photographed in the same spot dousing literature they dubbed as “Cultural Marxist” with lighter fluid and setting it ablaze. Among the volumes they torched were “The Diary of Anne Frank,” “The 9/11 Commission Report,” and “Schindler’s List.” Besides evoking memories of the early days of Nazi Germany, the spectacle cast the group’s purported devotion to free speech in an extremely ironic light.



*Photo | Northern California Anti-Racist Action*

Following RAM's highly publicized street battles, the group became the subject of intense media scrutiny. In October 2017, the investigative outlet ProPublica produced a [video](#) that exposed the identities of RAM's core membership and wondered why they had not been investigated by law enforcement for their violent actions in Huntington Beach and elsewhere.

But the media coverage of RAM glossed over the group's attraction to a burgeoning trans-Atlantic conglomeration of white supremacists that centered on U.S.-allied Ukraine as the base for a fascist reconquest of Europe. By the Spring of 2018, RAM leadership was barnstorming through Germany and Italy and heading east to meet fascist cohorts from across the West at a conference in Kiev.

Buried in the FBI indictment of RAM members are details of their meetings with one of the key figures in Ukraine's neo-Nazi Azov Battalion militia.

In August, according to the indictment, RAM members published photos on Instagram showing themselves meeting with Olena Semanyaka, the leader of the international department of the Ukrainian National Corps, which functions as a civilian arm of the Azov Battalion:

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17. On August 1, 2018, an Instagram user "tagged" Right Brand Clothing's account in a post containing a photograph of RAM members during their trip to Germany, Ukraine, and Italy meeting with Olena Semenyaka, the leader of the International Department for the National Corps, which is a political party in the Ukraine that was founded in 2016 out of a regiment of the Ukrainian military called the Azov Battalion. Based on my training and experience, I know that the Azov Battalion is a paramilitary unit of the Ukrainian National Guard which is known for its association with neo-Nazi ideology and use of Nazi symbolism, and which is believed to have participated in training and radicalizing United States-based white supremacy organizations. The text associated with the post stated, "@rightbrandwear it was an honor to meet the singer and patriot from #18th #nationalist #blackmetal #ukraine #antiantifa."

The indictment also referenced a video of RAM co-founder Benjamin Drake Daley performing a crossed-forearm salute to the Southern California-based white supremacist Hammerskin gang while in Ukraine:

ACTIVITISM-ATHLETICS-VIRTUE . . . RIGHT SIDE." RAM members also posted online a video showing Daley in the Ukraine performing a salute known to be associated with the western Hammerskins, a well-established violent white supremacy extremist group that is associated with RAM, and of which Daley was a member before co-founding RAM.

*RAM's Gab account provides additional details of the group's foray through Ukraine this May. The trip centered around the Paneuropa conference, an event that brings together fascists from across the West to encourage international collaboration. It is hosted at the Reconquista Club in Kiev, and included an MMA competition.*

"One of our guys has had the honor to be the first American to compete in the pan european organization Reconquista in Ukraine!" RAM declared on its Gab account. "This was a great experience meeting nationalist[s] that came [sic] as far as Portugal and Switzerland to take part."





*Robert Rundo, left, of the Rise Above Movement competes at Azov's Reconquista Club in Kiev, Ukraine. Photo | Gab*

The visit, which followed on the heels of meetings with white supremacists in Germany and with Italy's fascist CasaPound party, highlighted the centrality of Ukraine to international fascist organizing. Further, the Paneuropa conference, where fascists build connections across national borders, revealed the Azov Battalion as much more than a militia fighting for control of a sliver of contested territory in eastern Ukraine.

Semanyaka did not respond to an interview request delivered through Facebook messenger; however, she told Radio Free Europe's Christopher Miller that RAM "came to learn our ways" and showed interest in learning how to create youth forces in the way Azov has.

Today, Azov leaders openly acknowledge that were it not for the U.S.-backed coup that unfolded in Kiev's Maidan Square in 2014, their organization would never have developed into the powerhouse it is. As Semanyaka said this year, according to a summary:

*The Ukrainian nationalist movement would have never reached such a level of development unless the war with Russia had begun. For the first time since the Second World War, nationalist formations have managed to create their own military wings, the brightest example being the Azov regime of the National Guard of Ukraine."*

The 2013-14 Maidan revolt was the cataclysmic event that Ukraine's already potent ultra-nationalist camp had been waiting for. The protests erupted in Kiev's Maidan Square after the democratically elected President Viktor Yanukovich refused to sign an economic

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association agreement with the EU. Celebrated in the West as a pro-Western movement guided by tech-savvy middle-class youth, EuroMaidan depended heavily for its success on phalanxes of black-masked hardmen from Right Sector (see appendix at bottom), an ultra-nationalist party that did battle with the government's Berkut riot police.

Along with Right Sector, the leadership of the far-right Svoboda Party assumed a prominent role at the Maidan, dubbing the protests a "Revolution of Dignity." Svoboda co-founder Oleh Tyahnybok — who had once demanded an investigation of the "Jewish-Muscovite mafia" that he saw controlling Ukraine — appeared on stage at the square beside U.S. Senators John McCain and Chris Murphy when they arrived to encourage the protesters.

Another key figure in Ukraine's neo-Nazi scene was Andriy Biletsky. A university Ph.D. who stressed physical violence as a means to revolutionary change, Biletsky led the Patriot of Ukraine militia, an early forerunner of Azov that attacked migrant camps and menaced foreigners. In a manifesto published during the height of the Maidan clashes, Biletsky outlined his post-revolutionary agenda: "The historic mission of our nation in this critical moment is to lead the White Races of the world in a final crusade for their survival," he wrote. "A crusade against the Semite-led Untermenschen."



*Members of the Right Sector practice street fighting in central Kiev, Ukraine, Feb. 3, 2014. Darko Bandic | AP*

In May 2014, Right Sector and an assortment of far-right forces banded together to massacre their opponents in Odessa, attacking a pro-separatist protest camp with iron pipes then burning the fleeing protesters alive after they took shelter in a local trade union building. Over 40 pro-separatist Ukrainian

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citizens were consumed in the flames. The U.S. and EU studiously looked the other way, legitimizing the violence and setting the stage for more.

Behind the scenes, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt were carefully stage managing the opposition, positioning the pliable Arseniy Yatsenyuk as the future leader of a U.S. client-state. Meanwhile, billionaire-backed U.S. soft-power entities like the Omidyar Network and Open Society Foundation plowed money into the opposition, providing it with high-tech organizing capacity and establishing new media outlet Hromadske overnight.

Given the amount of U.S. investment in regime change in Ukraine, it was necessary for American pundits who cheered on the operation to downplay or simply deny the central role neo-Nazi forces played in making it all possible. In perhaps the most absurd attempt at whitewashing the fascist presence, the neoconservative pundit James Kirchick described Right Sector in an article for *Foreign Affairs* as “Putin’s imaginary Nazis.” Meanwhile, groups like the Anti-Defamation League – which supposedly exist to battle anti-Semitism – refused to support a congressional effort to ban arms to groups affiliated with Right Sector, because “the focus should be on Russia.”

With all the cover he needed from Washington, Biletsky organized the “imaginary Nazis” of Patriot of Ukraine, Right Sector, and assorted football ultras into a real militia called the Azov Battalion. Together, they fought under the neo-Nazi Wolfsangel symbol, which also happens to be incorporated into the logo of the U.S.-based Aryan Nations.

On the frontlines of eastern Ukrainian flashpoints, Azov did battle with Russian-speaking separatists and set up government-sponsored indoctrination camps for children and teens closer to the country’s interior, instructing ten year olds on marksmanship and the evils of foreigners. Azan was subsequently absorbed into Ukraine’s military as a national guard unit, and began appearing in the field with PSRL-1 rocket launchers supplied under the watch of the U.S. Department of Defense. In November 2017, Azov leadership received a team of U.S. Army officers for training and logistical discussions (see photo below and to the right).



*Members of the Azov Battalion display the Nazi salute, left. U.S. Army officers visit the Azov Battalion in the field, right.*

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By the time Congress approved a ban on arms to Azov this year, the Trump administration had already authorized a new shipment of offensive weapons to the Ukrainian military, including advanced Javelin anti-tank missiles. As in Syria — where the CIA-backed Free Syrian Army functioned as a de facto “weapons farm” for jihadist groups, including Jabhat al-Nusra and ISIS — any new U.S. arms are likely to wind up in the possession of Azov, the congressional ban notwithstanding.

“It’s very corrupt in Ukraine and money can be stolen — the same as in Syria where extremist fighters got guns from U.S.-backed units,” said Katchanovski. “Azov can just establish new political fronts so they can circumvent the U.S. prohibitions.”

The Azov Battalion has received not only U.S. weapons, but also volunteer American military veterans like Brian Boyenger. “It’s not illegal,” Boyenger told a *Ukraine Today* interviewer of his presence in an Azov camp. “From a U.S. perspective, as long as you’re not fighting with a terrorist group or committing war crimes or things like that. It is legal — mostly I’ve been serving as kind of like an advisor.”

Azov has also welcomed Islamist fighters from Chechnya to continue their long war against Russia in a new theater. A sniper from Sweden with “typical neo-Nazi views,” Mikael Skilt, has been assigned to oversee an entire Azov regiment. And neo-Nazis from as far away as Brazil have flocked to Ukraine to join the fascist crusade. One foreign fighter from France, a young anti-Semite named Gregoire Moutaux, returned from a Ukrainian militia camp in 2016 “armed to the teeth and ready to strike” synagogues, mosques and the 2016 soccer championships when he was arrested on the Ukrainian border by national police.

To consolidate its political influence over the country, the Azov Battalion established a National Druzhina, or street patrol unit. A slickly produced recruitment video released in 2017 featured drone footage of National Druzhina members marching in formation into Kiev as Biletsky, their ideological guide, impelled them to “restore Ukrainian order” to a corrupted society. The street patrol was openly backed by Interior Minister Arsen Avakov, a powerful patron of Azov who belongs to the ruling party of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.

This year, the National Druzhina and state-funded neo-Nazi militias like C14 (the “14” represents the notorious “fourteen words” mantra) staged a series of lethal pogroms against the local Roma population, vandalized the offices of insufficiently pliant politicians, stormed city council meetings, and even sued the *Hromadske* station that was established with U.S. funding for describing their members as neo-Nazis.

“Their connection to power is why they can commit any crime and they will never be punished,” Katchanovski said of Azov and its various street-muscle brigades. “Because they have the police and senior police members like [Vadym] Troyan, they can intimidate people and intimidate politicians with impunity.” (Once a member of Azov, Troyan now serves as Ukraine’s Deputy Minister of Interior).

The U.S. has not only kept silent about the wave of ultra-nationalist violence sweeping across Ukraine, it has been complicit in legitimizing the perpetrators. This November, America House Kyiv — a U.S. government-funded cultural center — hosted a speech by a uniformed leader of the neo-Nazi C14 gang, Serhiy Bondar. Months earlier, Republican House Majority Leader Paul Ryan and the NATO-funded Atlantic Council hosted Andriy Parubiy, the speaker of the Ukrainian parliament and co-founder of the fascist Social-National party, for a friendly exchange on Capitol Hill.





*Serhiy Bondar, a member of Ukraine's neo-Nazi C14 militia, is hosted by the U.S.-funded America House in Kiev. Screenshot | YouTube*

Given the free rein and open acceptance right-wing extremists enjoy in post-Maidan Ukraine, it is no wonder the country has become a haven for fascists from across the West.

#### The grand Reconquista strategy

As the international secretary of Azov's National Corps, Olena Semanyaka has emerged as one of the most prolific publicists of Eastern European fascism. With jet black hair and a faintly gothic look, she brands herself as a "traditionalist," emulating her hero, Julius Evola, the late Italian occultist philosopher who espoused a "racism of the spirit." Though she has been photographed bearing a Nazi flag and throwing up a sieg heil salute, Semanyaka has also been a welcome guest on Ukrainian nationalist TV to promote her campaign for the release of Ukrainian nationalist activists held by Russia. In her role with Azov, Semanyaka organizes conferences aimed at popularizing the concept of "the great European Reconquista" – a pan-European fascist-nationalist takeover that begins in the former Soviet satellite states and ultimately sweeps through Western Europe on the strength of anti-foreigner resentment.



*Semanya, upper left corner of Nazi flag, displays the Nazi salute. On the right, Semanyaka is shown during an appearance on Ukrainian state TV.*

Semanyaka laid out the fascist grand strategy in Kiev at a December 2016 gathering of Black Metal fans from across Europe called the "Pact of Steel:"

*For the first time [in] a long period, the success of the Right in Western Europe –*



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*the rise of the Right because of refugee influx and terror – gives the chance for the realization of our 'pact of steel' between East and West, between Western and Eastern European nationalists."*

She continued:

*Our main task today is to show to Western nationalists, to inform them that Putin's Russia is no alternative to the EU of the West and that the only ally for them is an alternative axis of European integration which is being formed now in Kiev, Central and Eastern Europe, as a springboard for the all-European reconquest, for the new Europe between the EU and neo-Soviet neo-Bolshevik Putin's Russia."*

Semanyaka and other Ukrainian fascist ideologues refer to the regional springboard for the European reconquest as the "Intermarium." This is a concept originally envisioned after World War One by Polish military leader Jozef Pilsudski, who imagined a confederation of countries from the Baltic to the Black Sea as a counter-weight to German and Russian aggression. Though his idea never materialized, Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the failure of the EU and NATO to prevent it revived interest in the Intermarium. One of the biggest boosters of the alliance, the right-wing Polish President Andrzej Duda, saw it primarily through the prism of regional security. The extreme right in Ukraine, however, understood the Intermarium as an ethnically pure base for exporting their revolution to the rest of Europe.

The first Intermarium conference was held in Kiev in January 2016 under the banner of Azov's National Corps. Semanyaka headlined the event alongside Biletsky, the Azov founder, welcoming far-right activists from Poland and the Baltic States. Within a year, the concept was promoted at an officially sanctioned event at the Latvian embassy in Kiev. There, the Latvian ambassador welcomed a who's who of the Ukrainian fascist scene, from Svoboda to National Corps representatives like Semanyaka, for a ceremony honoring Peter Radzins, a Latvian general who advocated for the Intermarium.

Organized by Latvia's far-right National Alliance party, a member of the country's governing coalition, the spectacle provided Azov leaders with the sheen of international legitimacy. As Matthew Kott, an academic expert on the European far-right, argued, Latvia's "membership in the EU and NATO allows it to act as a Trojan horse for increasing the clout of the far-right in the Euro-Atlantic community."

While historical tensions between the Intermarium nations are still simmering, Semanyaka has pleaded with her international allies to heed the call of the late pro-Hitler British Blackshirt leader Oswald Mosley for a "great act of oblivion...of all our former struggles, conflicts, historical enmity. What we need," she argued, "is the revival of a sense of the new European aristocracy, a new European unity as a real basis for the union I am talking about."

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There are no historical grievances between American white supremacists and their cohorts in Ukraine. After all, the U.S. government has made itself the main guarantor of Ukraine's security, going as far as directly arming Azov in its bid to bleed Russia. And decades before the U.S. backed extremists in contemporary Ukraine, the CIA ran a program to rehabilitate former Nazi collaborators from the country as anti-communist intelligence assets. Backing Ukrainian fascists is a grand American tradition, indeed.

This November, during the latest Paneuropa conference organized by Semanyaka as a safe space for fascists from across the West, she played host to one of the most prominent self-styled intellectuals of America's white nationalist movement, Greg Johnson.



*Gregory Johnson promotes his “White Nationalist Manifesto” at Azov’s Reconquista Club in Kiev, Nov. 2018. Screenshot | YouTube*

“I think that what’s happening in Ukraine is a model and an inspiration for nationalists of all white nations and I wanted to learn as much as possible about what you’re doing here and see as much as possible,” Johnson told his rapt audience. “And I’m enormously impressed and I’m taking notes.”

Johnson is a highbrow racist who publishes a journal, *Counter-Currents*, that advances what he calls “white identity politics.” Like the Rise Above Movement leaders before him, he was clearly inspired by his visit to Kiev. “I’m already planning to come back,” Johnson exclaimed during a break-out session. “I’m very impressed with what I’ve seen here. I want to come back and learn more.”

### APPENDIX

**Svoboda Party:** Originally called the Social-National Party of Ukraine, a Ukrainian political party with long history of anti-Semitism. Led by **Oleh Tyahnybok**, Svoboda played a prominent role in the 2013-2014 Maidan uprising, where Tyahnybok shared the stage with U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Chris Murphy (D-CT). **Andriy Parubiy**, who had co-founded the Social-National Party of Ukraine, is now Speaker of Parliament.

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**Azov Battalion:** 3,000-member neo-Nazi formation in Ukraine's National Guard. Azov began as a paramilitary, originally formed out of the Patriot of Ukraine neo-Nazi gang led by **Andriy Biletsky**, and is now a Ukrainian National Guard unit. The battalion's logo incorporates the neo-Nazi Wolfsangel and black sun symbols. Biletsky is now a member of Ukrainian Parliament. **Vadim Troyan**, another Azov veteran, is now Deputy Interior Minister.

**Ukrainian National Corps:** Azov's civilian arm, responsible, among other things, for coordinating with and recruiting neo-Nazis and white supremacists from around the world. The international outreach is led by **Olena Semanyka**, who's been photographed with a swastika flag.

**National Druzhina:** Azov's street patrol organization, established in January 2018 with the aim of "restoring Ukrainian order" to the streets. The National Druzhina – whose members pledge personal loyalty to Biletsky – has been involved in pogroms against the Roma, LGBT, and other activists.

**Right Sector:** Loose formation of neo-Nazis and football ultras, which supplied street muscle to the 2013-2014 Maidan uprising. Later involved in lethal suppression of anti-Maidan movements in places like Odessa.

**C14:** Ukrainian neo-Nazi gang that receives government funding and has been responsible for some of the lethal Roma pogroms as well as anti-LGBT violence. The 14 is a reference to the Fourteen Word slogan of white supremacy. Led by **Serhiy Bondar**, who spoke at America House, a cultural center funded by the U.S. government.

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Top Photo | Volunteers of the Azov Battalion carry portraits of members killed in the war conflict with separatists in the country's east, at a rally marking Fatherland Defender Day in Kiev, Ukraine, Oct. 14, 2016. Efrem Lukatsky | AP

*Max Blumenthal is the founder and editor of [GrayzoneProject.com](http://GrayzoneProject.com), the co-host of the podcast [Moderate Rebels](#), the author of several books, and producer of full-length documentaries including the recently released [Killing Gaza](#). Follow him on Twitter at [@MaxBlumenthal](#).*

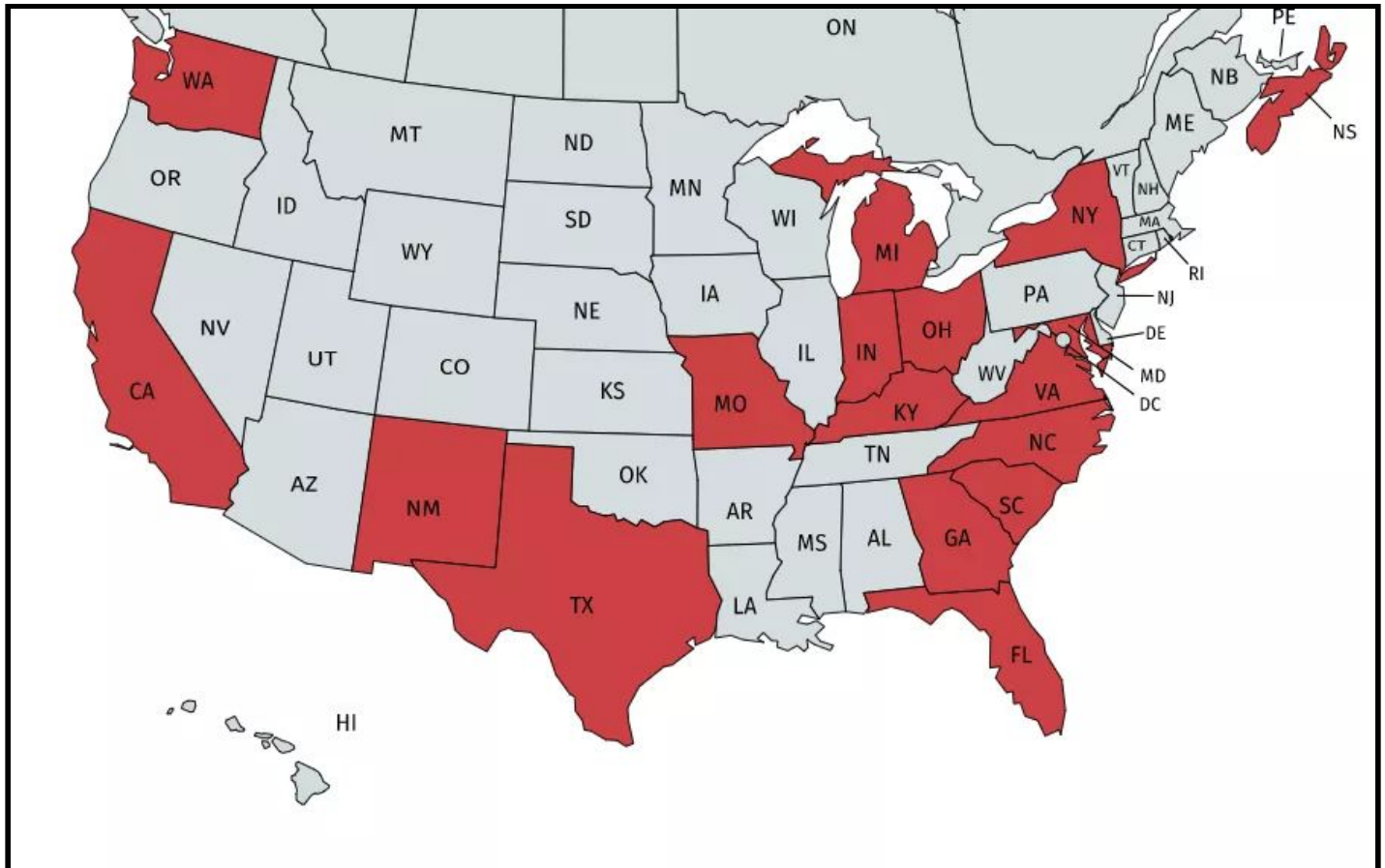
<https://www.mintpressnews.com/us-backed-fascist-azov-battalion-in-ukraine-is-training-and-radicalizing-american-white-supremacists/251951/>

## New Confirmed Prison Action, reports from the National Prison Strike's Final Days

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by Amani Sawari

MPD was a national endorser for this #PrisonStrike in 2018.



Missouri: at least one prisoner on a hunger strike at Leavenworth (USP)

New York: strike activity at Cossackie Correctional Facility, strike activity and boycotts at Eastern Correctional Facility.

Ohio: at least one block engaged in a 3 day fast on first days of the strike and a commissary boycott throughout at Ohio State Penitentiary, plus a work stoppage in late July in response to preemptive repression by staff.

Texas: More prisoners involved in the hunger strike at Michael Unit.

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Statement from prison strike media team

September 9th has passed, but it is up to the people in each prison who are participating in boycotts, hunger strikes, work strikes or sit-ins to determine the right day and time to close out their actions — from the outset, Jailhouse Lawyers Speak and national organizers have endorsed local strikers to set their own end dates, or strike indefinitely.

With ongoing communication repression (including heightened censorship of mail, lockdowns, and constant searches and seizures of prisoner property), there is undoubtedly a great deal of information on strike activity that has not yet traveled outside. As organizers have said from the beginning of this process, there is a wall of silence around prisons in the US, which should itself be of great concern for the human rights of those held inside. Actions to further restrict and surveil contact with prisoners, such as Pennsylvania and Maryland's "drug elimination efforts" which curtail access to reading materials under the false pretext of guard safety, would be a huge loss for the already extremely limited freedoms of US prisoners.

Repression against strikers by prison authorities continues to be fought with phone zaps and letter-writing campaigns: reporting on these issues will directly prevent harm to inside organizers, particularly as coverage of the strike itself winds down. The next step for Jailhouse Lawyers Speak is the endorsement of a campaign to pressure politicians to enact legislative change; both JLS and IWOC will be taking stock of the strike with their members over the coming weeks to consider what other future actions will be necessary to build a movement strong enough to push for the rights of incarcerated peoples. For now, the most urgent tasks for anyone following the strike are to continue to push the demands inside and out, highlight ongoing or previously-unreported strike activity, and work to prevent or limit retaliation against strikers wherever possible.

Incarcerated organizers never believed that their demands would be met at a negotiating table during the past three weeks; it has been a huge success of the 2018 prison strike that the 10 points have been pushed into the national and international consciousness. The work of spreading and fighting for these demands will continue on all fronts until they are actualized, and then beyond that onto what JLS aptly calls "the dismantling process," as we build a movement toward abolition.

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak will be releasing an official statement from inside organizers this week.

List of demands

"These are the NATIONAL DEMANDS of the men and women in federal, immigration, and state prisons:

Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.

An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.

The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.

The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.



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An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.

An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and brown humans.

No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation programs at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.

State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.

Pell grants must be reinstated in all US states and territories.

The voting rights of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called “ex-felons” must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count!

### **Strike action round-up**

Here is the list of such activity as reported to Jailhouse Lawyers Speak or the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee as of September 9, 2018:

#### **California**

New Folsom Prison: hunger strike started by Heriberto Garcia on August 21 continues

CSP LAC (Lancaster): a group is hunger striking

#### **Florida**

Confirmations of work strikes & boycotts (via Jailhouse Lawyers Speak):

Charlotte Correctional Institution

Dade Correctional Institution

Holmes Correctional Institution

Appalachee Correctional Institution

Franklin Correctional Institution

#### **Georgia**

Confirmations of work strikes & boycotts (via Jailhouse Lawyers Speak)

Georgia State Prison “Reidsville”

Georgia Diagnostic and Classification State Prison in Jackson, GA

#### **Indiana**

Wabash Valley Correctional Institution, prisoners in a segregation unit initiated a hunger strike on Monday August 27, demanding adequate food and an end to cold temperatures in the unit.

#### **Kentucky**

Boycott activity confirmed by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak:

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FCI Manchester (Federal)  
Maryland

Jessup Correctional Institution - small group engaged in work stoppage reported by JLS and another independent source.

Michigan

Alger Correctional Facility, a group of prisoners are boycotting all phone contact and payment to Global Tel Link (GTL)

Missouri

Leavenworth (USP) has at least one prisoner on a hunger strike.

New Mexico

Lea County Correctional Facility in Hobbs, NM. On August 9, prisoners organized a work stoppage against conditions at the prison, operated by private corporation GEO Group. Tensions at the prison reached a tipping point prior to the date of the strike and prisoners could not wait before initiating their protest. All facilities in New Mexico were placed on lockdown status on the morning of August 20. This statewide lockdown has since been lifted except for Lea County C.F..

North Carolina

Prisoners at Hyde Correctional Institution in Swanquarter, NC demonstrated in solidarity with the strike. At least one prisoner has been retaliated against at Polk Correctional Institution for alleged strike activity.

New York

Coxsackie Correctional Facility - strike activity confirmed by JLS and NYC Books Through Bars

Eastern Correctional Facility - work strike activity and boycotts confirmed by JLS

Ohio

Ohio State Penitentiary (supermax in Youngstown) - at least one block engaged in a 3 day fast on first days of the strike and a commissary boycott throughout. Also there was a brief work stoppage in late July in response to preemptive repression by staff.

Toledo Correctional Institution - At least two prisoners began a hunger strike on August 21. David Easley and James Ward were moved into isolation for participating and authorities have cut off their means of communication to outside contacts.

South Carolina

Confirmations of work strikes & boycotts (via Jailhouse Lawyers Speak):

Broad River CI

Lee Correctional C

McCormick CI

Kershaw CI

Lieber CI

Boycott activity confirmed by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak:

FCI Edgefield (Federal)

Texas

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IWOC was forwarded a message dated 8/23 from inside administrative segregation, (solitary) of a Texas gulf prison confirming that 2 people are on hunger strike in solidarity with the national action: "I feel great. But very hungry! And not because I don't have food but because of our 48 hours solidarity with our brothers and sisters. It's the only way we can show support from inside of Seg. Let everyone know we got their backs."

IWOC has confirmed that Robert Uvalle is on hunger strike in solitary at Michael Unit, Anderson County, TX in solidarity with the nationwide strike. Robert has been in solitary for most of his 25 years inside.

IWOC has subsequently confirmed that more prisoners are involved in the hunger strike.

IWOC has confirmed that there is a work stoppage at the McConnell Unit in Texas.

Virginia

Sussex II a group of has released a communique related to a hunger strike

Washington

Northwest Detention Center - Representatives of over 200 immigrant detainees at Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington declared a hunger strike on day one of the national prison strike. Amid fears of retaliation, 70 across three blocks participated. As of this time, seven continue to refuse food into a second week.

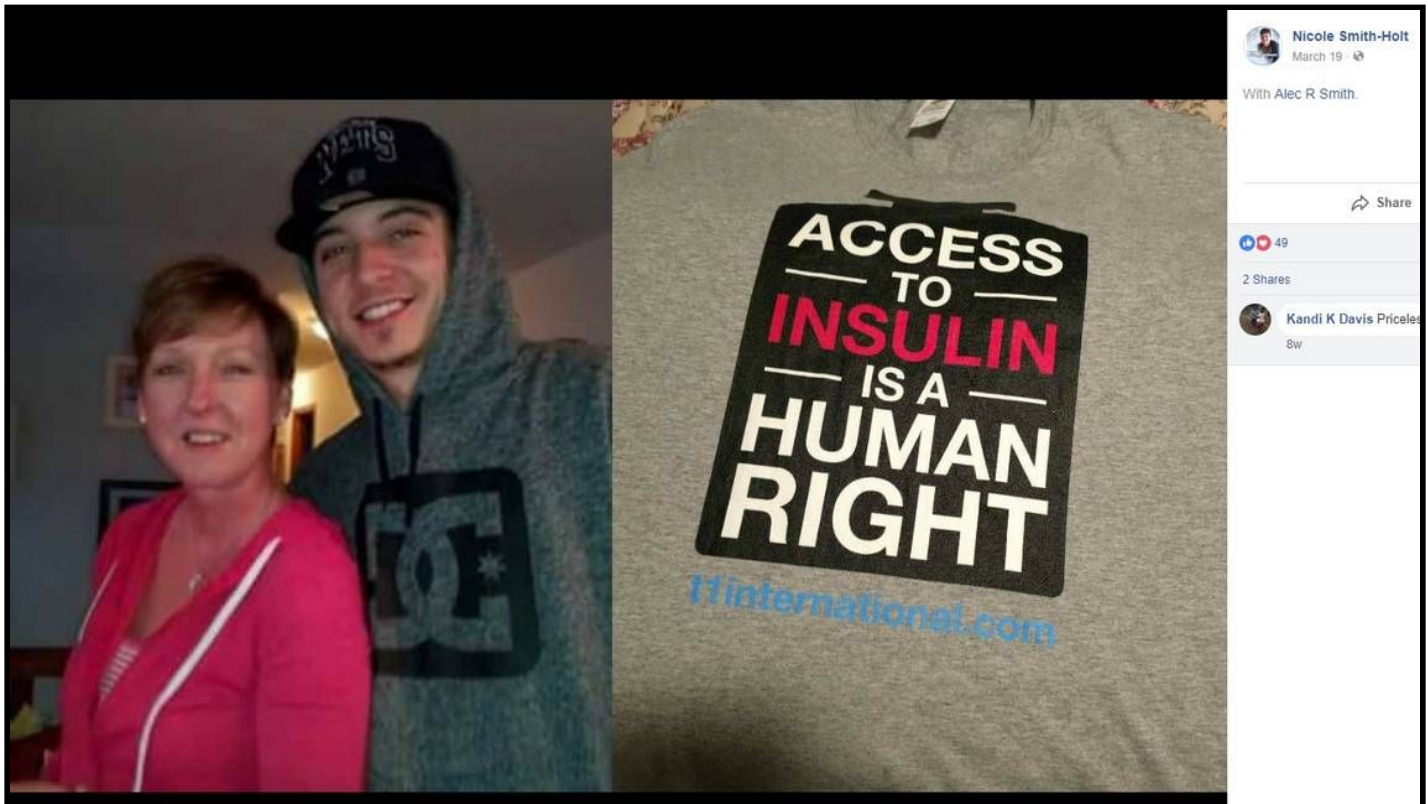
Nova Scotia, Canada

Burnside County Jail in Halifax prisoners went on strike and issued a protest statement in solidarity with the strike and naming local demands. They went through a lockdown and extensive negotiations with authorities; those who refused to cooperate with humiliating body scans were punished by being locked in a dry cell (no water or working toilets) for three days.

<http://sawarimi.org/archives/2522>

## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

He couldn't afford insurance or insulin meds, and he died. His mom is speaking out



BY KAITLYN SCHWERS  
[kschwers@kcstar.com](mailto:kschwers@kcstar.com)

Alec Raeshawn Smith was on his parents' health insurance plan until he turned 26 last spring.

Smith had aged out of it, and he became uninsured. He tried rationing his insulin medication, because, as his mother later told the Star Tribune, he couldn't afford his own insurance and couldn't cover the \$1,300 insulin refill. He didn't tell anyone of his struggle, the newspaper reported.

A little more than a month after his birthday, Smith died alone in his apartment. In lieu of flowers, family members asked that donations be given to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. An obituary said he had been studying to become a paramedic.

An autopsy showed Smith died of diabetic ketoacidosis because he was without his medication, KARE reported.

Now, his mother, Nicole Smith-Holt, is calling for lower insulin costs. She also told Minnesota Public Radio she wants to see laws holding pharmaceutical companies accountable.

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Facebook photos showed Smith-Holt at a May 12 rally outside the Minnesota State Capitol, where she shared her son's story.

"It's heartbreaking. I should be with my son. I should not have had to bury him at such a young age. No parent should have to bury their children," Smith-Holt told KARE in an interview.



One mother is calling for action on the high price of #insulin, after losing her 26-year-old son last year. He lived 27 days after aging out of her insurance policy. Tomorrow will be her first Mother's Day without him [.https://kare11.tv/2rDS24p](https://kare11.tv/2rDS24p)

According to the American Diabetes Association, an estimated 7.5 million Americans depend on insulin. Citing 2016 research from the University of Melbourne, the organization said the average price of insulin almost tripled from 2002 to 2013.

"The rising cost of and access to insulin ultimately impacts everyone and especially people with diabetes and their families, health care providers, insurers and employers," the American Diabetes Association said in a statement. "Current estimates project that diabetes is the most expensive chronic illness in the U.S. at a total of more than \$327 billion per year, including \$15 billion for insulin."



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Eli Lilly and Co., a global manufacturer of prescription drugs, told the Star Tribune they agreed drugs like insulin medication should be made accessible to all, but pushed back in placing the blame on manufacturers for rising drug prices.

"The price of insulin has gone up over 1,200 percent in 20 years," Smith-Holt told the newspaper. "It's not affordable. You're price-gouging people who need this one product to live, to survive."

When the weather heats up, so does your risk of heat-related health issues—dehydration, heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Paying attention to the heat is especially important if you have a chronic illness such as diabetes. Here's what diabetics need

By McClatchy

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/article211260394.html>



## Got Fascism?

### During Gas Emergency, Mass. State Police Reveal They're Keeping Tabs On Activist Groups

by Max Larkin

On Thursday evening, the Massachusetts State Police took to social media to share the extent of the gas emergency spreading across the Merrimack Valley.

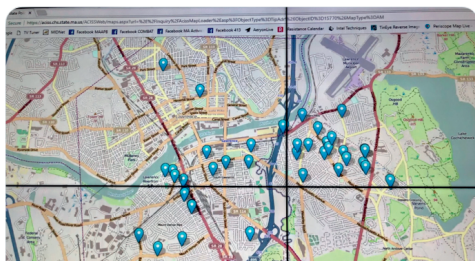
But in so doing, they also shared the bookmarks bar at the top of the browser window — with some surprising entries.

The bookmarks raised more than a few eyebrows on Twitter, since they included the virtual meeting-places of several activist groups. Some activists felt it offered proof the police conduct unwarranted surveillance, particularly of organizations on the political left.

At 6:26 p.m., the state police's official Twitter account shared an image of a computer monitor showing the locations of 39 fires and explosions.



Updated plotting of confirmed fires and explosions by MSP Watch Center. 39 locations confirmed thus far. Number will grow. New responses ongoing. Reminder: all residents of Lawrence/Andover/N Andover who have Columbia Gas must evacuate, as should anyone else who smells gas.



Tweet your reply



But whoever posted the image forgot to use a "crop" tool. So the image included the browser's bookmarked links, including several sites run by left-wing activist groups.

Among them were the Facebook groups for Mass. Action Against Police Brutality (MAAPB), which organizes protests and reposts stories of Americans killed by police; the Coalition to Organize and Mobilize Boston Against Trump (COMBAT); and other activist organizations. The "Resistance Calendar," which shares upcoming anti-Trump protests in Boston and nationwide, was also bookmarked.

State police deleted that first tweet, and another image they shared an hour later was cropped. But some shared screenshots of the original, suggesting the saved sites were evidence of unreasonable police attention focused on political speech.

In a statement, state police did not deny that they bookmarked these pages for monitoring, saying they have a responsibility to prepare for "all large, public gatherings."

The statement continued: "We, obviously, need to know if large numbers of people, for whatever reason, are going to be on public roadways or public spaces, so that we may ensure the

## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

safety and rights of those who have gathered as well as of the members of the public around them."

But some aren't satisfied with that argument.

"I wasn't surprised — but I was appalled," said Kade Crockford, director of the Technology for Liberty program at the Massachusetts branch of the ACLU. "American law enforcement has, for a very long time, targeted dissidents. A lot of people like to believe those tactics ended. But that's not true — and actually, after 9/11, they've seen a substantial resurgence."

Crockford observed that the second map tweet from the state police's account mentioned it was taken at the Commonwealth Fusion Center, an information-gathering nerve center in Maynard.

That center opened in 2005 under Gov. Mitt Romney, with the stated aim of improving the state's "ability to fight crime and terrorism by analyzing data from a variety of sources."

Crockford said these institutions of "intelligence-led policing" have shown little success in preventing terrorist violence. "But what they have done, unfortunately, is marshal their substantial resources ... to keep track of the activities of perfectly law-abiding organizations that are expressing their First Amendment rights to organize and protest."

A 2015 ACLU report found that the state's other fusion center, the Boston Regional Intelligence Center, or BRIC, prepared intelligence reports on antiwar activists and elected officials.

Crockford pointed to a 2012 Senate subcommittee report that found that fusion centers hadn't contributed to federal counterterrorism efforts and that they generated intelligence "of uneven quality — oftentimes shoddy, rarely timely, sometimes endangering citizens' civil liberties... and more often than not unrelated to terrorism."

Leaders from the affected groups did not respond immediately to requests for comment.

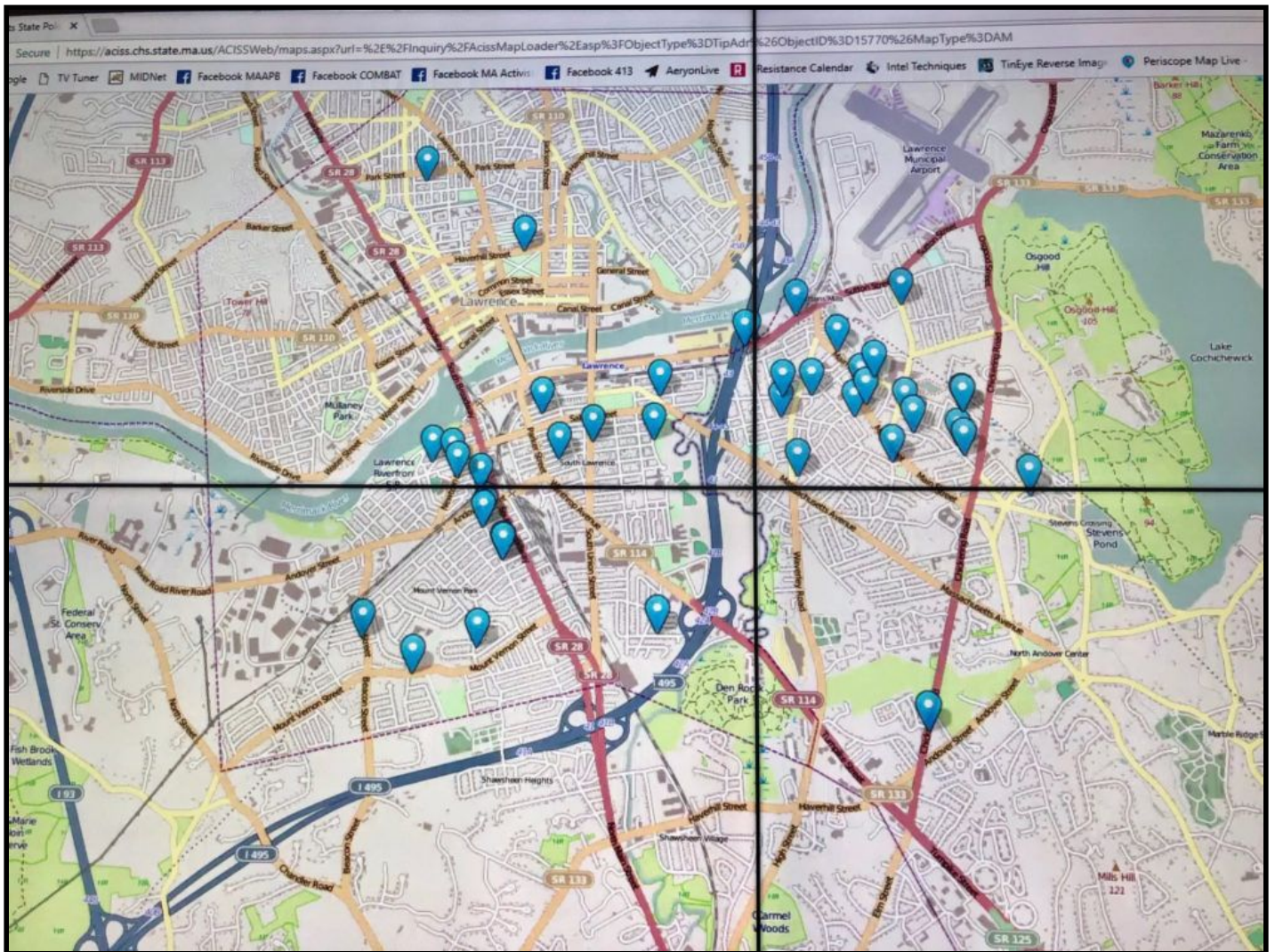
But it's worth noting that COMBAT and MAAPB are both small organizations, with fewer than 10,000 "likes" between them. Neither page lists any forthcoming events, and COMBAT has not published anything on its Facebook page since last November.

The state police statement pushed back on any claim of bias, saying, "We do not collect information about — nor, frankly, do we care about — any group's beliefs or opinions." It called this kind of monitoring "a common - and common-sense - a function of any police department."

<http://www.wbur.org/news/2018/09/14/during-gas-emergency-mass-state-police-reveal-theyre-keeping-tabs-on-activist-groups>



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## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

### How to Join MPD

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#### 1 Year Membership Dues

- \$5 Youth/Unemployed/Student (28-under)
- \$10 Regular
- \$?? Affiliated Organizations dues are \$1/per total members of the organization

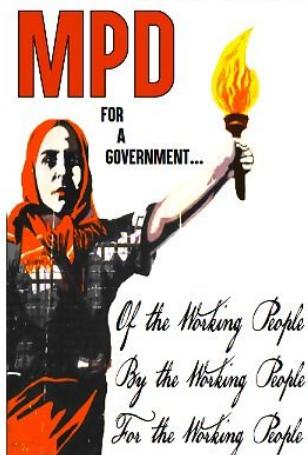
Mail in your check/money order

MPD  
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Staten Island, NY 10305-1934

<http://www.movement4peoplesdemocracy.org/join-1.html>



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## THE CAPITALIST MANIFESTO: LET POOR PEOPLE DIE



By Paul Buchheit, Nationofchange.org

Market-happy illusionists keep spouting nonsense about a healthy economy built on today's capitalism.

The original Capitalist Manifesto was a 1958 book by economist Louis O. Kelso and philosopher Mortimer J. Adler. In their view of a properly conducted democratic capitalist society, a sort of modern-day Homestead Act was envisioned, in which all Americans would participate in the "capitalist revolution" of growing stock portfolios. This would be possible because of great technologies (energy in the 1950s, AI now) that would allow all of us, in Aristotelian and Jeffersonian property-owning ways, to become 'free' to pursue the arts & sciences and to enjoy more leisure time. Today, this form of democratic capitalism could be realized through the Employee Stock Ownership Plan promoted by the "Just Third Way" movement.

Just one problem. Apparently, in 1958, economists and philosophers were not able to foresee the unlimited greed of the relatively few people with the power to manipulate the strings of the capitalist state. They thought the newly productive post-war capitalists were being cheated by workers who depended on socialist strategies to even the score. But the opposite has happened. Average Americans have been cheated out of the gains from technological productivity. Just in the past ten years in our world of big business, over \$30 trillion - nearly a third of our nation's TOTAL current wealth - has gone to the richest 10% of Americans. Yet market-happy illusionists like the Wall Street Journal keep spouting nonsense about a healthy economy built on today's capitalism.

The root of the problem is the condemnation of anything 'social' as un-American, which has helped modern-day capitalists to justify their belief in individual gain by any means. Wealthy conservatives know that social responsibility might take away some of their riches by providing opportunities and jobs and a decent standard of living for all Americans. In their minds, the poor have only themselves to blame for being poor, and for dying. But it is capitalism that is killing them. The Capitalist Manifesto has been twisted into an assault on poor people.

## **MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY**

### **Politicians And Plutocrats Stand By As People Are Poisoned**

What is the capitalist incentive to clean the water in Flint, Michigan? Little money is to be made, so little effort is made to save lives. People are DYING because there's no market for profit-making.

From a global perspective, the dangers of poisoning and death from pollution are magnified many times over. There were 1.5 billion people in 1900, there are 7.6 billion now, and 11 billion are anticipated by the year 2100. Scientists predict dangerous increases in respiratory and infectious diseases, malaria, meningitis, typhus, and cholera. And global food shortages. Instead of working in a cooperative manner to encourage self-sufficient small farms around the globe, industrial behemoths like Monsanto and DuPont are positioning themselves for a chemical assault on our food supplies.

### **Millions Are Without Health Care - For Many Americans That Means Death**

Over 30 million Americans are without health insurance in our business-driven, capitalist society. The American Journal of Public Health flatly states, "Numerous investigators have found an association between uninsurance and death...Our estimate for annual deaths attributable to uninsurance among working-age Americans is more than 140% larger than [the Institute of Medicine's 2002 study]."

One of the most disturbing examples of individual disdain for society is the opioid epidemic. Purdue Pharmaceutical executives admitted to the felony charge of lying about their product's addictive qualities, but no one went to jail. In a six-year period to follow, other Big Pharma dealers, including AmerisourceBergen and McKesson, distributed nearly a billion pills to West Virginia alone.

Social responsibility especially implies caring for our young people and the elderly. For the latter, see below. For young adults, one of every five deaths in 2016 involved opioid addiction. The great majority of heroin users started with prescription painkillers. But our social responsibility seems to dissipate under the cloud of individual-centered capitalism. Despite a doubling of opioid overdose deaths in six years, millions of people live in counties without a licensed provider of the drugs needed for treatment.

As social beings, we empathize with the opioid sufferers, but in a profit-driven world in which the victims rather than the predators are blamed for their own bitter misfortunes, the empathy is muted. Social consciousness would correct that. But that won't happen as long as the media is promoting individual (human and corporate) gains over collective, cooperative efforts to restore our country to health.  
**Bankruptcies Are Surging, And So Are Suicides**

The percentage of elderly Americans filing for bankruptcy is three times what it was in 1991. Individualism over social consciousness is much to blame. A study by the Social Science Research Network found that the shift from employer and government pensions to individuals has increased risk while exacerbating stress. Meanwhile, much of the stress for working people comes from the 40-year stagnation in wages. "Deaths of despair" from drugs and alcohol and suicide are on the rise. For those who make up the poorest 60% of America, premature deaths are up 20 percent since the turn of the century, and the economic suicide rate has risen dramatically.

**Life expectancy for the poorest classes in America is now equivalent to that of Sudan or Pakistan.**

Yet business-minded conservatives are trying to make it harder for these most vulnerable of Americans to survive. Medicaid work requirements and drug testing are two of the proposed or implemented hardships reserved just for poor people.

### The True Meaning Of Socialism

In the worst moments of the hurricanes that keep hitting American cities, members of government and business and military and especially the public abandon thoughts of personal gain and dedicate themselves to the needs of fellow human beings. People around the nation pitch in, through their labors and donations; neighbors and first responders rescue trapped victims; the Red Cross and other charitable organizations, including many local churches, deliver food and supplies and medicine; GoFundMe initiatives are set up; the business community donates their goods and services; government officials remain focused on the people they were elected to represent; even the military contributes with rescue helicopters. No one seems to care about the skin color or religion or politics of those in need.

It takes a tragedy to reveal the true meaning of socialism. It's not government control, but rather people controlling their own lives through empathy and cooperation.

<https://movement4peoplesdemocracy.blogspot.com/2018/09/the-capitalist-manifesto-let-poor.html>

## MOVEMENT 4 PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY

North American Region



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Labor Today is published by the Labor United for Class Struggle (LUCS), a nationwide caucus of union and non-represented workers. Our mission is to unite the working class to fight against the power of transnational capital. Currently, only 11% of the U.S. workforce is organized into unions. Most of these workers are employed in the public sector, and are legally denied the right to strike. The most militant of these workers are the postal workers employed by the U.S. Postal Service. For this reason, they are under attack. However, they are not the only ones.

The attacks on the public sector and its workforce are part of a larger plan developed years ago by Milton Friedman and the University of Chicago School of Business. The plan is referred to as neoliberalism and its main feature is austerity. Reducing the number of federal, state, and municipal employees and cutting pensions and Social Security are the first part of the plan which President Ronald Reagan called "starving the beast". Under this plan, all government services are virtually eliminated with the exception of the military, and the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches of government. This is also called Social Darwinism, or survival of the fittest.

Our mission with Labor Today and the LUCS caucus is to unite all of Labor, to give them a voice regardless of industry or type of work without regard to status: union or unrepresented. We provide assistance to the Walmart workers, the Fight for \$15 and a union and other efforts. We are transnational and we support the mission and policies of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).

<http://www.labortoday.us>



## Our Mission

The aim of all Friends of the Soviet People is international cooperation in building socialism and solidarity with the anti-imperialist forces of the world who are struggling against U.S. Imperialism - the main enemy of humanity.

## Our History

U.S. Friends of the Soviet People is the successor to the National Council of American - Soviet Friendship (NCASF) which went out of existence in 1991.

<http://www.usfriendsofthesovietpeople.org>